

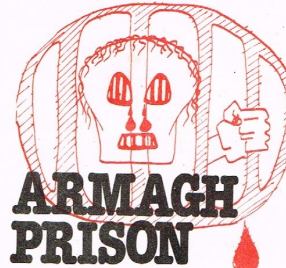
outta control

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News & Views of the
Belfast Anarchist Collective

OUTTA CONTROL... of the state, bosses, patriarchy, schooling, churches.... As Anarchists we oppose the authority and exploitation of this society, and advocate one of FREE association and self-management.
This paper comes out every 2-3 weeks and we welcome contributions, criticisms etc. Next issue will be out MAY 1st.



ARMAGH PRISON
Armagh Tribunal 1980
JUDGES FINDINGS
On April 9th 1980 a tribunal into the condition of women political prisoners in Armagh Gaol, organised by Women against Imperialism, was held in Belfast.
The panel of judges was as follows:
Marie McMahon, Feminist, Dublin
Pauline Roe, NUS Exec, delegated by NUS Women's Conference
Paula Skully, Solicitor, Dublin
Neil McCafferty, freelance journalist, Dublin

Pat Arrowsmith, Vanessa Redgrave, Frances de la Tour, Else Hautz, Amsterdam Women's Liberation Group, Therese, MLF Group, Paris.

The Tribunal heard evidence relating to the legal case for political status, the effect of its removal on the women political prisoners on health, sanitary and medical conditions, on pre and ante natal care, and evidence relating to physical attacks on women prisoners by male warders. Both written and verbal evidence was presented; ex-prisoners and relatives of prisoners were present and gave verbal evidence.

Below is the statement of findings presented by the judges to the final session of the tribunal:

"Since January 1980 there has been a sharp escalation of harassment and unprecedented punishments, deliberate systematic physical and mental torture meted out to the Women political prisoners in Armagh Gaol, which included the curtailment of toilet and washing facilities"

"While waiting for their dinner in February 7th the women were attacked and brutally beaten by a squad of approximately 40 male and 20 female warders. They were denied food and water for 24 hours and

refused all access to toilet and washing facilities and forced to use chamber pots for bodily functions. They were not allowed to empty their pots in the toilets which were locked by prison warders. As a result, the women were forced to empty pots from windows."

"On February 13th the women were moved to 'A' Wing, deprived of all their personal belongings, and since that time it has been impossible for the women to wash and keep themselves clean. Tissues sent into the prisoners by their families were not accepted and sent out again by the prison authorities"

"As a result of this degradation, the women prisoners decided to protest through refusing all co-operation with the prison authorities until the privileges due to political prisoners were granted."

"In the six weeks following, the protesting prisoners have been locked in their cells 23 hours a day and the cell windows have been boarded up. Consequently, the women were obliged to spread the contents of their chamber pots on the walls in order to avoid sitting and lying in their own excreta"

"A particularly cruel form of suffering has been imposed on these women. During menstruation insufficient numbers of sanitary towels have been provided and the women have been forced to leave used towels on the floor."

"From the wide body of evidence presented to us by the mothers and fathers of the young girls who have been in Armagh Prison over the last few years, the tribunal is convinced that the doctors responsible for medical care have been criminally abusing their profession through continuously denying ill and pregnant women medical attention for both minor and extremely serious ailments."

"Among these is a young girl, Pauline McLaughlin, who has lost 3 1/2 stone in continued on next page



LETTERMACAWARD, CO. DONEGAL. MARCH 30TH 1980.

NO URANIUM

The stopping of uranium exploration and eventual mining in Ireland is now taking new and many turns. The past 6 or 7 months have been spent trying to get across the message about uranium—its dangers, nuclear connections, and rip-offs by the mining companies in THEIR interests alone.

Such education has been most successful in Donegal, where the task of making mining 'unprofitable' for the mining companies the government, the EEC, is well under way.

People in Donegal have never felt a close affinity with the central government in Dublin, and what they dictate to them. Donegal in the 20th century is one long story of local people being ripped-off, cut off, and abused....that's why they are reacting so strongly to the latest and potentially most dangerous rip-off. While central government ignores the potentials of fishing, turf, etc., yet subsidises the mining companies in their search for uranium, the feeling is clearly—NO WAY!!

The feeling is strong throughout the county and explains why local villagers have moved on the drillers from about their homes, as

has happened a few times this month in the Gweebarra valley area; why local professionals have formed themselves into committees; why hundreds of people have been on the march (Lettermacaward, March 30th.); and why the machinery and offices of Irish Base Metals and Munster Base Metals have been sabotaged.

The mining companies have said nothing throughout....they see propaganda as a problem for central government and the local gardai. But the meetings, the marches, the sabotage,—the whole feeling of the area is so against them, that they are being forced to act, if they want to continue their exploration work. They have ignored the people and are only now beginning to realise their blunder.

So now the state rushes in with a new propaganda drive....the Nuclear Energy Board has been ordered to put 'the govt. case'. Fortunately it's too little, too late but it'll be interesting to see how it goes. THERE WILL BE NO URANIUM MINING IN DONEGAL! The future, however, must include useful and creative employment, if 'no uranium mining' is to have any positive meaning at all.

ONE-TONE MUSIC

OVER-EXPOSURE OF UNDERTONES
The Undertones have just released their second LP which is likely to go straight into the charts, no doubt to achieve similar success as Stiff Little Fingers.

In the last issue of our paper we exposed the Stiffs for what they were, sellout hypocritical posers. However the Undertones haven't consciously sold out but are more the victims of the music business.

The Undertones were initially given the opportunity to make their first single by Good Vibrations. Good Vibes were following in the growing trend of setting up a small independent record label. On a shoe-string budget they hoped to give as many local groups as possible the opportunity to make a record. The major record companies would only give you a recording contract if they decided your music was for 'mass consumption' That's if the company ever got round to ever listening to your demo which was competing with thousands of others.

The Undertones made and released their EP on the Good Vibes label. It was promoted Undertones continued on back page

Armagh Prison continued from previous page, weight, is vomiting continually, and cannot eat the food provided"

"Another, Maria McClenaghan, has a burst duodenal ulcer and also is denied a special diet. Pregnant women are denied of ante natal care and deprived of access to their children when born"

"Under these conditions these women are immediately susceptible to a variety of internal infections such as cystitis,

conditions which can result in premenstrual sterility and even death"

"This cruel and inhuman treatment is being meted out to women who are merely seeking the right of political status that has been previously been granted to women now incarcerated in another wing of the same prison"

"We the tribunal are unanimously in solidarity with the demands that the women in Armagh, and their brothers in the

Kesh, who have been convicted by no jury courts on alleged offences, scheduled as political by the Emergency Provisions Act 1978, be given political status and that all political prisoners be immediately released from prison"

"We are unanimously in solidarity with their continuous struggle to free Ireland from British Imperialism, and we find the British Government guilty of torture and criminal oppression against the Irish people.

THE REAL SCROUNGERS

Alongside the British military boot, we all have to contend with their economic boot which is currently jumping up and down on top of us. In February, Reg Prentice, Min. of State for Social Security, announced the appointment of 1000 new officers to tackle fraud and abuse...he predicted they would 'save' £50m. of the £200m. to be 'lost' over the coming year. A few queries...where do the figures come from? and what will the new officers really be doing?

It seems that the DHSS officials worked on the basis that just as large department stores lose between 1% and 2% to theft, so the DHSS must lose likewise. 1% of DHSS turnover is £190m., and when rounded up, it becomes £200m. The last figures given were in March 1979, when 'irrecoverable' overpayment through fraud was £3.9m.—and guess what—during the same period bureaucratic errors amounted to £13.2m! (put things in perspective, doesn't it?)

At present the fraud detection hot squad (special investigators) save three times their cost...or so Prentice says. £3m. on special investigators will save £9m., he claims. But these new officers will not necessarily be 'special investigators'....500 of them are going to be 'Unemployment Review Officers' whose job it is to stop the long-term unemployed from claiming. They can cut benefit or stop it altogether if they consider 'claimants fail, without justification, to find work'. They can initiate prosecutions for 'failure to maintain oneself or ones dependents'....usually the threat is enough to get claimants off their books. The DHSS do not give figures for UNDERPAYMENT...the Child Poverty Action Group estimate it at £344m. per year!!

The next biggest increase in personnel are to be found in the new fraud officers and Liable Relative Officers, 170 of each. The LRO job is quite simply to get hold of people (usually deserting fathers) who are considered to be responsible for dependents relatives that are receiving benefits, and extort money from them. Women are usually put under a lot of pressure to make statements etc... to help prosecute the deserters (who have no money) to get them to pay the benefits rather than the SS. Yet again, there is no fraud involved. The other new staff are fraud officers and 100 special investigators. These are the ones who rise with the dawn to sit outside the homes of women claimants to spot any men coming out. As far as the DHSS is concerned, a woman who has a man to stay for more than 3 days is 'living with him'.

There are some interesting comparisons...tax fraud, for instance, is in excess of £3000m. a year. The DHSS has over 5,500 officers engaged in fraud and abuse investigations, while the inland revenue have 260 officers. And of these, just 10 are enquiry officers (special investigators) to cover the whole country. Last year the DHSS prosecuted 29,000 people (with a 98% conviction rate)...the inland revenue prosecuted 184 people. With unemployment here being so high, we can expect more than our fair share of state snoopers!

The Electricity Service has acquired some new 'special investigators' as well...the British Army....The Brits have been involved in a number of incidents of turning electric supplies off on behalf of the Electric Board in W.Belfast!

T.C.—Top Control

Our society operates from the top down..... it's not an unbreakable law of nature, but rather it's what happens when a few men own and control the means of our existence. And we, in turn, mirror their hierarchical structures. The few develop their own agencies and structures to stay on top, directing the future paths.....and always at our expense and on our backs. At the very top of that structure is the TRI-LATERAL COMMISSION

But first, a bit of history.....

Following World War 2, the US were clearly the leading Western economic country, with 1/2 of the world's imports and exports. Every place else was in a strict pecking order, with all international trade regulated in the interests of US capitalists through the IMF, World Bank, and various international trade regulations. Others benefited accordingly in the trade boom of 1945-1971, especially W. Europe, Japan, and those countries integrated into this system by US capital and US arms—Iran, Brazil, S. Korea, Mexico. Things went well for US industrialists and bankers, though as the world market declined (US consumption levels were neither wanted nor possible everywhere, and W. European/Japanese competition increased), American capitalists started to suffer.

Nixon's devaluation of the dollar in 1971 signalled their big trouble, and the world economic order with US capital firmly in control was starting to crumble. The Tri-Lateral Commission (composed of leading industrialists, bankers, top politicians, diplomats, selected 'academics', journalists, and top union bosses from US, W. Europe, and Japan) is their answer to their problem.

The Tri-Lateral Commission (TC) was



world's leading industrialist and banker—David Rockefeller—whose interests include every dirty deal imaginable in oil, industry, banking, and third world investment. The TC was a recognition by US capitalists that if they were to continue to pollute and control the rest of us, then the leading industrialists and politicians of W. Europe and Japan would have to get in on the act too.

The first meeting of the TC in 1972 was at Rockefeller's mansion near New York, and one of the co-founders of the scheme was an unknown academic of Russian studies Z. Brzezinski—who just a few years later was to become US National Security Adviser. The new world government was born, and another unknown who was asked to join was J. Carter, who soon made it to the top! Such was the procedure throughout the US, W. Europe, and Japan—it was the big capitalist school for deciding WHO was to be in power, and what policies to be followed...whether it be on nuclear power, finance, arms, detente—THEY decide OUR futures!!

The TC meets from time to time to review past strategies and keep themselves firmly in control in the future...their last meeting was at the Institute of Directors, London, this March 23-25. It got little press coverage all discussions secret, but the guest list included leading US, W. European and Japanese bankers, industrialists and future politicians including Kissinger, Coca Cola, Fiat, Dunlop, GEC, Barclays, RTZ and Garret Fitzgerald! Many of its members

development. When the TC steers members to positions of power, they become ex-members like British Foreign Secretary Carrington, US President Carter and even Michael O'Kennedy! The new world technocratic govt. exists, and we didn't even know they were having a meeting.

This month, a counterpart of the TC—the BILDERBERG GROUP...it has its annual meeting soon...April 18-20th. at Aachen near Bonn. Although the Bilderberg Group was originally set up in the 1950's, it now works closely with the TC, and likewise is composed of leading Western bosses and controllers including D. Rockefeller. Its members have included Heath, Wilson, Callaghan, Thatcher, Powell, Dunlop, ICI, BP, Ford, Kissinger, Carter, D'Eating, Schmidt, Carrington, and K. Joseph. Little is known about April's guest-list, though Lord Home is to step down from the chair to be replaced by Scheel, the W. German ex-President. It will no doubt discuss ways of implementing the decisions made by the TC in March...and once again we must wait for the effects, as their secrecy is maintained.

This we do know...they are the ones behind the rip-offs and starvation in the third world, behind world development of nuclear energy, and the arms industry, behind world food shortages and junk food, and behind much of our daily plastic-life. And we are the ones they depend on...duplicating us into believing that what's good for them will benefit us!!

IRISH MEMBERS OF THE TC...May 1979.

Michael Killen—Managing Director of the Industrial Development Authority.
Richard Conroy—Irish Senate.
Garret Fitzgerald—Fine Gael.
Mary Robinson—Irish Senate.
Myles Staunton—Irish Senate.
Kenneth Whitaker—Senate, and former governor of the Bank of Ireland.

Michael Woode—T.D.

ARMY - NUCLEAR CASE? EVERY SATURDAY AT "JUST BOOKS" 7 NINETEEN ST. SMITHFIELD, BELFAST. T... MEMBERS ON THEIR OWN BEHALF TO MANIFEST FROM "JUST BOOKS" PRINTED BY US ON A5 DICK 880!

WOMENS DEFENCE COURSE STARTING AT THE OPEN COLLEGE... MAKE UP YOUR OWN MIND AT THE ARTS THEATRE PLAY!... REMEMBER MAY 15TH HOLIDAY MAY 14TH STRIKE.

ABORTION

Abortion has come into the limelight in Northern Ireland with the recent defeat of the Corrie bill and the announcement by the Belfast Womens Law and Research Group that they were setting up an unofficial committee of inquiry into womens feelings and experiences on abortion. Together with contraception, free, safe abortion on demand gives women the choice of planning their families, how many children they want, whether they want to have children at all.

DO WE EVEN WANT THE 1967 ABORTION ACT?

The law in Britain is a much more humane one than here, where the maximum penalty for procuring or helping to procure an abortion is life imprisonment, but it does have a lot of drawbacks. Over half the abortions performed are in private clinics where women have to pay upwards to £100, even though they are entitled to one free on the National Health Service. Abortions are an exception on the NHS because the 1967 Act did not guarantee that abortion facilities would be set up. It merely gave a freedom in law for the medical profession to choose whether they wanted to perform abortions or not.

This has led to differences in the regional areas of Britain, Birmingham being a well quoted example. Because of the influence of SPUC, it is almost impossible to get an abortion.....in one major hospital in Birmingham only 2 abortions were carried out on the NHS in one year. With the political opposition here, the Church, and the backward views held in society where women are concerned, it is conceivable that many parts of Northern Ireland would be like Birmingham, and that if extended, the 1967 Act would do nothing more for women than save them the cost of the boat fare to England. Under the 1967 Act a woman still has to go and ask two doctors for an abortion. It is not like any other medical procedure. The onus is on the doctor to interpret the law. Is this a 'grave' and 'serious' case sitting in the chair opposite him? Does he agree with abortion anyway? Many women cannot go and ask their doctor for contraception, how much more difficult to ask for an abortion.....

DAY CARE ABORTION CLINICS

If abortion was legalised in the North, the National Health Service would not be able to meet the demand (over 2,000 women go to England each year for an abortion), for an increase in facilities. Even if they wanted to expand the continuing cuts in public spending would prevent them.

Hospitals are impersonal places anyway, as many women who have had hospital births will testify. Power, mystification and male bias is wrapped up in a white coat with all the possible medical answers for doing it their way, an experience quite devastating

even to those women who feel they know something about childbirth, the drugs on offer and the medical professions attitude to women. Would it be any different with abortion? Not so long ago in London, in a Catholic hospital, women who had had abortions were put in the same ward as women who had lost their babies as a matter of policy and looked upon as wicked, an extreme no doubt, but those opposed to abortion can express hostility to the patient in many other ways.

Some of our communities already have health centres incorporating half a dozen GPs, family planning services and community nurses and midwives. It is possible that these could be expanded to include a day care abortion clinic too. Abortions carried out by vacuum aspiration under 10 weeks are not a medical problem. It is straightforward and one of the safest surgical procedures known (safer than having your tonsils out). Abortion takes 10 minutes and is done under local or general anaesthetic and the woman can generally go home the same day. Given that there was hospital back up for unexpected complications abortion done this way is less traumatic for the woman who would have to wait weeks for a hospital bed., it is also considerably cheaper than admitting a woman as an in patient in a hospital. There are other advantages too, community nurses would be able to give supportive after care service, contraceptive advice and examinations and some level of specialisation would mean the service would be more efficient than annexing abortions onto the gynaecology ward of a large hospital. The idea of community day care abortion makes it possible for nurses to have a more varied work life—doing abortion after abortion in a clinic, like any repetitive job, becomes psychologically draining.

THE CUTS

In any area where the Government wants to economise you can be certain that services for women will be in the front line. Health is no exception. Women deciding to go ahead with their pregnancies are finding that maternity services, particularly in country districts are being cut and centralised into larger hospitals in the town, often miles away from where they live. Women who don't go to England, because of lack of knowledge or money, and who go to the backstreet abortionist in desperation with all the added risks and possible death, are seeing money spent on emergency and casualty departments being cut.

WHAT CHOICE, ABORTION?

To be able to choose abortion is meaningless if there are no adequate facilities provided free. Abortion as a choice has to be in the context of good community childcare — day care nurseries, playgroups, crèches, after school hours centres for older children, so that a woman has a real choice whether or not to have the child. For better dissemination of knowledge on contraception, sex and childbirth especially to schoolchildren, and even then when a

woman decides to go ahead and have the child, she has to struggle with the prospect of unemployment or low wages. In this social context, abortion is not a choice, it is a necessity.

IDEALLY.....

It would be great to see the development of womens self help clinics, to advise and help women to become strong and well, to dispel the ignorance women have of their own bodies and the awe in which they view the medical profession. With only the beginnings of a womens movement in Ireland and such views held in society that abortion is an imperialist plot to control the Catholic population, this seems light years away. Any legislation passed in the future on abortion in Northern Ireland, will mean the same economic exploitation of womens bodies and the same passive roles of women having abortions. It will still be the poor women who can't get an abortion easily, who didn't get contraceptive advice and supplies, who is still struggling to feed and clothe her children adequately.

Diplocks Court Attention

The RUC are annoyed, the press are confused, and the rule is proved by the exception. Edward Brophy, tho' facing 4 years for membership of the provos, was last week acquitted of the La Mon bombing. His case was unusual for 3 reasons - the amount of press attention, the enormity of the charges against him, and the fact that he got off!

How many men in Long Kesh and women in Armagh have gone through the same experiences as Brophy, both at the hands of the RUC and the no jury, no evidence courts?!

The RUC are annoyed not only because they didn't "get their man" but the way the case was highlighted has proved embarrassing for them (if the RUC can be embarrassed given the Amnesty International and Bennett reports)

The press are confused because they can't draw the obvious conclusions, but instead like the laborious liberal Guardian, suggest that while the case can be used as propaganda against the RUC, it can be also evidence of the fairness of the Diplock Courts (note that its not "evidence" against the RUC, and propaganda for the Diplock Courts)

Justice Kelly must be glad of the RUCs occasional incompetence (at framing people) which allows him to acquit the odd case (as he had to do 2 years ago with Billy Forbes of Strabane) These overshadow the hundreds of cases where he's sent hundreds of people down, and would you believe it shows how fair he is!

Footnote: The "Economist" claims that there are no juries in N.Ireland because nobody will sit on them!! Of course its nothing to do with their inability to convict as quick and as often as judges.

"EVERYBODY HAS THEIR PRICE - BUT SOME ARE ON SPECIAL OFFER"..... E.M.M.A.S.

Following the growing trend of lefties keeping their politics separate from their work i.e. Tariq Ali writing for the right wing Daily Telegraph, Paul Foot's column in the Daily Star and Vanessa Redgrave's sexist films we have our own home grown variety. Eamonn McCann, the well known Derry Marxist and TV hack is sub-editor of the Sunday World which surely must take the biscuit as the most trivial, shock horror probe, red under the bed sexist Sunday paper in Ireland.

QUESTIONS A POOR WOMAN MUST ANSWER TO GET AN ABORTION:

WERE YOU RAPED?
VICTIM OF INCEST?
DID YOU REPORT THE INCIDENT
WHEN IT HAPPENED?
DO YOU HAVE A SEVERE PHYSICAL DISEASE?
FELL OUT WITH YOUR PARTNER?
YOU GAVE THE DOCTOR SEVERE PAIN?
WOULD YOU SUFFER SEVERE PHYSICAL DAMAGE WITHOUT ONE?
PARENTAL CONSENT?
ETC. ETC. ETC.

QUESTIONS A RICH WOMAN MUST ANSWER TO GET AN ABORTION:

CASH OR CHARGE?



from NAMIBIA to BELFAST

Sitting in Belfast, it's very difficult to see beyond the purely physical aspects of imperialism...troops, guns, prisons.....but there is much more to it than that. It's not just getting rid of one form of capitalist government—it goes deeper and ultimately **MUST** involve changing our whole way of life! It must mean the **END** of the multinational destruction of the resources of this and other countries in the interests of Western plastic consumerism and profit. One such struggle is going on in **NAMIBIA**.

During the 17th., 18th. and 19th. centuries, Southern Africa was just another playground for British colonial control—replacing local ways and cultures in the service of the few sitting at home. In 1890 Britain 'gave' Namibia to friendly imperialists Germany, who, in turn, slaughtered any local resistance to control the agricultural land and the mines. Riches for the few, servitude for the many (capitalism) was well on its way.

Following the division of the spoils after World War 1, S.Africa (with British 'aid') took control of Namibia and a new era was born. The state and employers regulated all labour, forcing small farmers off the land into the lead, zinc, and diamond mines—into the service of the Western capitalists greed for minerals. No unions, no strikes, and barbed wire compounds as part of their 'contract'. The riches of Namibia became vital for the apartheid economy of S.Africa.

A new turn of events came with the shake-ups following World War 2...the United Nations were given trusteeship of Namibia, to work towards its independence. But Namibian diamonds, tin, copper, fish, and cattle were too important to S.Africa who imposed a form of direct rule. They destroyed all forms of labour organisation, shooting resistors, and intensifying mining—particularly with the S.African governments open invitation to international monopolies to come in and share the spoils.

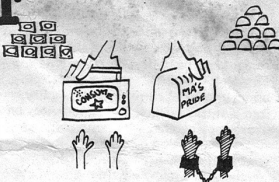
Namibia's dependence on S.Africa and the multinationals got worse, with industry restricted to commodities for export and no local manufacturing industry developing. A straight forward domination and exploitation of the land and the people by the S.African ruling elite, by multi-nationals, with the guarantee of low taxes and ease of getting profits out of the country.

Such repression means resistance, and its organised form became SWAPO (S. West African Peoples Organisation) which emerged in the 50's, armed struggle in the 60's, and by the 70's SWAPO were emphasising not just a national resistance, but a class struggle as well. (It remains to be seen whether they replace the exploiters with local bureaucrats, technocrats, and state-capitalists!). SWAPO activities forced the United Nations to declare S.African interests and control of Namibia as illegal, and the UN Security Council is slowly negotiating a S.African withdrawal which they hope will leave multi-national capital firmly in control. But it's taking a long time for the world super-government to get S.Africa out of Namibia, since declaring their occupation to be illegal in 1971... WHY?

Apart from the fact that the UN Security Council is formed of those countries most active in exploiting the resources of Namibia (US, Germany, Britain, Canada, and France), one thing above all else keeps them there—URANIUM.

Just about the same time that the UN Security Council said Namibia was to become independent, Western nuclear development needed increasing amounts of uranium. And Namibia has plenty of it. The huge ROSSING uranium mine started production in 1976—capital intensive open-cast mining. Although the ore grades are very low, it is very profitable because of the incentives offered by S.Africa. The 'big 5' say on the one hand that S.A. occupation is illegal and they should get out, and on the other hand they are financing and benefiting from that occupation.

Rossing is managed by Rio Tinto Zinc (Britain), though France, S.Africa, and the US also have a stake. Britain has a 6-year contract (signed by T.



Benn., 1976-1982...) to purchase 7500 tons of uranium oxide, some of it for its civil programme and the rest for military use. S.Africa, with nuclear partners Israel and W.Germany, rely on Namibian uranium for their military nuclear programmes. W.Germany does very well by supplying much of the mining machinery. France is building S.Africa a nuclear plant at Cape Town, and even the Soviet Union get in on the act...by enriching the Rossing uranium for Iran and W.Germany/IAMAZING.

No wonder the UN Security Council is remarkably slow at trying to get S.Africa out of Namibia, and no wonder the governments of Britain, France, W.Germany, and N.America remain quiet....the Rossing mine won't last for ever, and clearly the plunder of the nuclear fuel is more important than the people of Namibia who are suffering and dying. The mining companies in Namibia are the mining companies in Ireland—R.T.Z., Minatom, Amax—They are in Namibia, they are here. The same shareholders, the same mentality, the same machinery. Fighting imperialism in all its many forms must include a new way of developing our resources, a new style of living, and not just swapping governments!

* The S.African and multi-national choice for govt. in Namibia (i.e. one that won't hinder their commercial interests in any way) is the obscure and unknown DTA party led by Dirk Mudge. It will be interesting to see how such powerful backings will enable them to 'grow' in the coming year!

Downtown Sexuality

The Downtown Radio Phone In programme is usually low key, unprovocative and generally slow to upset the commercial interests which own and advertise in it.

On one programme they choose as their debate - abortion. In keeping with their concept of balance, they had 3 pro and 3 anti-abortion on the panel, and though most of the phone in calls expressed anti-abortion views, the Belfast Womens Collective made sure of making up for that in time. (A little note here is the delay of about 10 seconds when you phone them until they broadcast, to enable censorship if necessary)

Their concept of fairness is to ignore present realities in N.Ireland and you would need 100 panelists, each arguing 1/2 hour each week in favour of abortion, to compensate for the air time given to religious, commercial and state ideology which has most of us accepting that a women's role is to sexually please men, and take the consequences.

Just listen to the adverts; and the hypocritical arguments for the "right to life" from those who promote the religious strangulation of young sexuality, and ignore or defend British Army repression in the North. Well its women who get pregnant, and its them to decide if they want to go through with 9 months pregnancy and the experience of childbirth, to bring an unwanted child into the world. Its not for male doctors politicians or priests to decide. The right of women to have control over their bodies is fundamental. The foetus is a part of their body, a living part, but not an independant human existence.



IF YOU CAN GET THROUGH TO A RADIO...

CUT THEM OUT!

The thing about the 'cuts-day-of-action-march-rally' at the City Hall (April 2nd.) was how much of a drag the whole thing was. And not because so few made the journey. NO spirit of resistance will ever come from standing around in silence listening to boring male bureaucrats drone on about how their members suffer, or being asked to buy Militant half a dozen times by people who can't smile! A long, long way from the feelings of solidarity, strength, and energy that can only come without parasites planning a show for spectators. Another spectacle is planned for May 1st, and again on May 14th.

If the creativity of SELF-ORGANISATION were to be wrested from the trade union bureaucrats, that is the start of being effective, rather than symbolic. Demonstrations DON'T have to be like funerals, women and children DON'T have to stay at home...though some women have been arguing for years just to get a womens banner in the annual May-Day march...my, how the male hierarchy feels threatened!!

It's all a far cry from what is possible...take the CNT in Spain...an anarchist trade union organised without leaders by and for the workers (all 250,000 of them!), ...everyone can have their say, everyone does, AND STILL BE EFFECTIVE. Perhaps it's time to reply to government cuts with a few cuts of our own...like our T.U. leaders... ALL LEADERS!!

Undertones continued from front cover by Good Vibes as best as they could. John Peele, sympathetic to Ulster bands, consistently played it and Kid Jensen decided to make it his 'Record of the Week' Thus ensuring regular air-play and almost guaranteeing that it would become a hit.

But big problems for good vibes! They had only enough money to press a couple of thousand records. They would need a lot more pressed to meet the expected demand. And even if they did have the money to press more records how would they get the records distributed to all the record

shops around Britain? Only major record companies were able to have country-wide distribution. A real headache for the small Good Vibes label.

Sniffing out a good deal when they smell one in jets lipsmackin' are lickin' smooth talkin' quick dealin' rip-offin' Sire Records. They quickly put together a recording contract guaranteeing the group enough money to live on while making further records for the Sire label and took control of their hit EP Teenage Kicks" releasing it on their own label.

Good Vibes had no alternative but to let the group sign on with Sire and felt that maybe their only role was through making records to gain recognition by the major record companies.

Very altruistic of them, but all that leaves Good Vibes with is a couple of quid companies like Sire give them for the privilege while they exploit the best of the Good Vibes label and go on to make thousands. No wonder Good Vibes have no money to get out their back log of recording tapes. Could anything have been done, was there any escape out of the dilemma?

Perhaps the Undertones could have signed to make only one LP with Sire and then made the next on the Good Vibes label. No doubt through the success of their first album enough money could have been raised to produce and promote their next! This would have contributed towards a local successful record label promoting an alternative culture and further giving local bands the opportunity to make records.

Maybe they could make a bootleg record for Good Vibes to help their ailing finances or at least organise a benefit gig?



BAKUNIN (MICHAEL) FIRST PRESENTED ANARCHISM AS A CONSISTENT POLITICAL THEORY. BESIDES BEING ACTIVE IN MANY EUROPEAN INSURRECTIONS, HE ALSO ENFORCED FEDERAL SOCIALISM IN THE 1ST INTERNATIONAL IN OPPOSITION TO THE AUTHORITARIAN + STATIST SOCIALISM OF MARX + THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS.

outta control

News & Views of the
Belfast Anarchist Collective

OUTTA CONTROL... of the state, bosses, patriarchy, schooling, churches.... As anarchists we oppose the authority and exploitation of this society, and advocate one of free association and self-management.
This paper comes out every 2-3 weeks and we welcome contributions, criticisms etc.

USELESS WORK

Too much time is spent 'at work' doing things we just don't want to do...of that there is no doubt. But often it's the only way to make ends meet, or the result of hassles from the dole, or a work ethic cleverly disguised and fed to us since childhood by church and state.

Work is not our decision, under our control—it's a slot we are 'lucky' to find because of the beneficence of those who own, control, and make the decisions. Our whole system, our whole economy revolves mainly around USELESS work...work that has no real meaning for those that do it, that produces nothing that we and our friends either need or use!

Not all work of course—some of it is essential, some is needed.

but in most cases it's still working under the direction of others, and not for ourselves and our communities. It's still the manufacture of products which pass along the conveyor belt to be retailed by the advertising industry. It's still production for profit not need, it's still a dull alienating task.

So what is useless work? All those bureaucrats who revel in mystifying form-filling are the most obvious as our society becomes more and more under state control (as opposed to the individual employer). A whole new strata of useless, time-wasting bureaucrats in a multitude of government agencies trying to justify their existence...the robots responsible for classifying us as computer digits.

A society run from the bottom up, by people for people, will have no need for endless layers of parasites. There won't be much need for central banking and insurance, the whole packaging industry, or deLorean cars which the people of Belfast will never drive...and the 'security industry'—from judges, and parliamentarians to the police and military will have to find something useful to do!

The machinery at Shorts will surely have a more positive use than military equipment for its 'undisclosed customers' such as the Israeli army or Latin American dictatorships. Technology can and will be redesigned, re-thought, and re-invented into use for what we want and need, not what is profitably viable. People's transport, housing, nurseries, agriculture (not agribusiness), energy conservation will have a real future...to replace useless products of useless work, sold back to us to be possessed and consumed through subliminal and useless advertising. For that to happen, PEOPLE become the focal point, our creative potential, our enjoyment, our collective-community needs and decisions will be the future—NOT profits, dispirited and rigid wage-labour, all dependent on a world market, recession, and state funds.

MAY DAY MAY DAY

May Day is a traditional workers day of action...workers being trade unionists, houseworkers, and the unemployed. It is NOT a 'trade union' only day, as it is here in Belfast! Year after year, Terry Carlin (the professional bureaucrat who has never worked in industry, nor in the shop-floor trade union movement...he worked his way up through the trade unions own civil service) has refused womens groups, anti-repression groups, ALL political groups from marching with their own banners. He denies a political content to a political event...he transforms it into a SHAM event! (and he collaborates with the police to keep the 'lefties' away). The trade union movement even goes to the extent of helping their employers by having their protest anything up to a week AFTER the day! (And until recently marches were done in the protestors own time...usually a Sunday). So Carlin and the rest of the NICTU have managed to transform our May Day protest into nothing less than a boring ritual (like the April 14th. march)...is it any wonder that so few people participate?

Historically 'May Day' bears no resemblance to today's farce. It all began in the U.S.A. with the formation of the Eight-Hour League. The labour movement at this time was on the offensive. 1886 saw the culmination of a successful strike against the Wabash and South western railway systems and as a result of this, the Knights of Labour (an early trade union) had grown from 100,000 to 700,000 members in a year. Labour's mood in 1886 was militant despite the attempts of the Trade Union leadership from preventing the proposed May 1st strikes to obtain the eight-hour day.

In the face of agitation the ruling class put out a constant barrage of propaganda and armed a vigilante militia. The press were predicting a repeat of the Paris commune 'riots', and that Judge Lynch would be hanging every communist from a lamp post to prevent it.

One of the leading figures in the Chicago labour movement was A.L. Parsons, a former confederate cavalryman. After the Civil War he came to believe that he was fighting on the wrong side and set up a paper to fight for black resistance married Lucy Gonzales and they moved back to Chicago, where experience of the '79 depression made them lifelong anarchists.

Along with August Spies, Parsons helped form the International Working Peoples Association. Both threw all their efforts into the strike movement. Parsons constantly addressed union meetings urging them to strike on May 1st. In April 45,000 stockyard workers voted to join and by the end of the month it was estimated that 62,000 Chicago workers would come out while 25,000 had demanded the eight-hour day without threatening to strike and 20,000 had already joined it. By this time the papers were demanding Parsons life for fermenting the 'eight-hour madness'.

May 1st saw 340,000 striking all over the U.S. In Chicago alone 80,000 came out, most of whom took part in the strike.

The state had also mobilised. In the side streets 1,350 National Guardsmen were at the ready, equipped with Gatling guns, as well as the Chicago Police, known for their brutality against strikers. A 'prominent citizens' Committee sat ready to bring them into action should the need arise, to save Chicago from chaos.

The march, after a mass show of solidarity, dispersed. On the Monday following, the strike spread and the Chicago Police got their chance. They clubbed workers at the McCormick Harvester works as they rushed in 300 scabs. In

(Contd. on p. 14)



How often have you heard the hypocritical shit spewed out by some old boring fart of a politician about helping the youth of this country? They might get around to it...but always on THEIR terms, and doing what THEY want us to do. Creating for us the instruments of discipline, the scouts and guides, the boys and girls brigades, the church-run discos and youth clubs...places where we can be supervised. Nice plans for young Catholics and Protestants to meet each other. But when we mix freely in a way they can't understand, and find frightening, they don't want to know...it's outta their control!

Of course when we start working things out for ourselves, they'll do anything to prevent it, and put up every obstacle. That is until one of the entrepreneurs can make some capital out of us doing so.

April 24th. at the Ulster Hall was something different...a good vibes treat...5 top local bands for only £1.50...hardly a rip-off! John Peel, friend of the oppressed culture, compered it in part with his usual humility. We may look and dance aggressively, but nobody got hurt and everybody had a great time.

When punk first appeared the media practically tried to ban it. And the local media ran their usual shock-horror stories about punks and violence...or worse still, just completely ignoring it. It was only when Ulster bands began to make a real impact in the record charts that the newspapers picked up on the culture. But they reduced the impact of punk with all its anti-authoritarian and liberating content to the usual dribble about 'local boys make good'.
OUT DEMONS OUT!



HOUSEWORK MAKES "WORK" LOOK EASY !!

There are millions of us: we shop, wash, clean, breastfeed the babies, change their nappies, spend five years making them socially acceptable for school, nurse anyone in the family who is ill or old.....the list is endless, and even though it can easily take up to 12 hours a day, seven days a week, the work is seen as trivial. Housewives are part of that group of people who don't count for much as human beings—the poor, the sick, the old, the young, the unemployed, anybody who isn't 'working for a living'.

Housework isn't just a job, it becomes a married woman's way of life. It doesn't make any difference if a woman has a full time job, she is still expected to make the bricks and mortar of a house into a home. Redevelopment in inner city areas has meant the break up of the extended family—there are no grannies, mothers, and sisters to borrow from or to go to when things go wrong. Women are isolated in high rise flats, semi detached suburbia, impersonal housing estates often with few friends, no amenities and no sense of community. Their isolation makes it impossible for them to come together as housewives and initiate solutions to their problems. They spend their time doing mindless repetitive chores, some striving for a resemblance to the dream house portrayed in glossy magazines, others give up, demoralised. Many have young children and they are expected to bring them up in the isolation of their own homes and when problems arise with so called 'difficult' children, they blame themselves for having failed, not the situation that they are in.

Society has different values for male and female work. A man works for a decent wage to support his wife and family, a woman on the other hand works for the love of her husband and children. This

dual standard is carried into the outside world with the result that working women just aren't taken seriously. They work for low pay and in bad conditions. For many it is a necessity to go out and work for the extra money, yet they are fobbed off with 'pin money'. Then again, it is hardly conceivable that a woman wants to work for personal satisfaction, for excitement, for a change to the daily routine once in a while. Women's role as wife and mother is so ingrained in our consciousness, that it is difficult to see any other alternative. Many women do want to go back to work after they have raised their families. These women may have spent 10 to 20 years without working in the outside world. No employer is prepared to train a middle aged woman for a rewarding job, let alone the career she would have liked to have had if she hadn't got married. So these women go into low paid menial work as cleaners of large stores and offices, auxiliaries in the hospitals.....in the end it is the only work they know.

Since the war there has been a massive increase in modern gadgets and household appliances. Today's housewife demands that she have these to make her life 'easier' and obviously many of them do

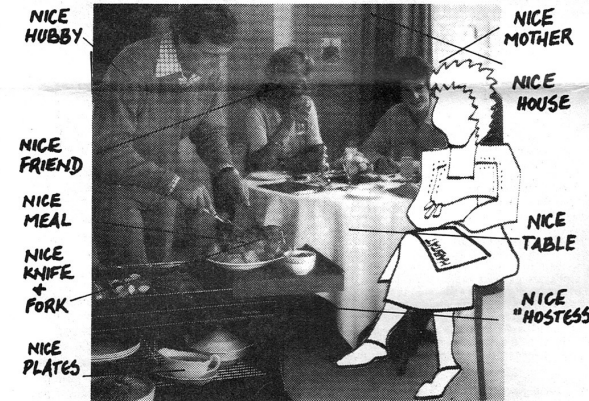
make it easier. But what of the consequences? The main function of this hardware is to make profits not to help unburden the housewife. Their built in obsolescence guarantees they break down when the year is up and they finally find their way to the scrapheap within another few years of servicing and new parts, to the detriment of our environment and dwindling reserves of raw materials. And what of the housewife? She may have a house of mod cons but the way in which she is expected to use them is positively medieval.....to imprison a woman in a home to mindlessly oversee an assortment of machinery, some of which stands there idle most of the time is not the luxury brought by a technological age, but slave labour.

When we begin to discuss housework as an issue, we find that we start to question the foundations of this society—the family, its relation to the outside world and women's role within it. We start to question the division, not only between men's work and women's work, but work itself, wages, consumerism and the divisions between intellectual work and manual labour. Whatever solutions we put forward in the short term, collective responsibility for children, the sick and the old in centres and nurseries controlled by the people who use them, utility rooms etc; women's freedom is only possible in a completely transformed society.

BRITS 'N COMMIES!!!

The past few months we have all been subjected to a propaganda blitz by Western Governments and the media over the Russian invasion of Afghanistan. The cold war jingoism is all so very convenient at a time when Governments 'up' their military spending, paid for (by us all) at the expense of welfare services. (Britain currently spends upwards on £1million per HOUR on military purposes!)

Behind the media onslaught, however, much more has been going on. The British Government and media have been emphasising the Russian use of chemical and biological warfare against the Afghani tribes...they have also used this excuse to justify their increase spending into the research and development of the supposedly outlawed weapons...chemical and biological sprays and gases. As it turns out, the Russians HAVE been using chemicals in Afghanistan—CS gas to be precise—and as news of this leaked out, the British Government have suddenly shut up! It would hardly do for them to criticise a Russian use of CS gas after what they pumped into the people of Belfast and Derry.



WHAT CRISIS ?

In only January and February of this year, there were 4,360 lay offs announced in Northern Ireland. Last week the Housing Executive announced a reduction by a third of the number of houses it was to build, and a complete stop to house repairs—unless these were emergency repairs. Northern Ireland has already the highest unemployment rate and the worst housing conditions in the UK. So what's going on? 'There's a crisis' the bosses say, 'We all have to tighten our belts'. Well here's just a brief look at what causes it and who's belts are tightened.

The 'economic crisis' is a world wide trend and is due mainly to 2 causes—

1. The saturation and loss of markets by companies (causing a decrease in profits). An early example of this was when the car companies sold so many cars in the USA, that everyone who could afford one, had one (or two), so there wasn't the same demand.
2. Since the 2 World War, there has been an increase in workers wages, both pay packets and the social wage of transport and health facilities (again causing a decrease in profits). This social wage wasn't given away, but was won

after much hard struggle, albeit in a form which also benefited the bosses—i.e. centralised, alienating hospitals and the means of leisure became big business (so the workers money was spent as soon as it was earned).

The 'crisis' is an opportunity for the bosses to reassert their authority and profits. By a manipulation of the worth of money, by a cutback in public services, and national wage agreements (or more recently companies imposing small rises), the capitalists and politicians have reduced both the real and social wages.

BACK TO PROFITS

For instance, have you noticed that all the banks profits have INCREASED during the crisis. And looking at just one day's newspaper (Belfast Telegraph 17th April) its also the multinationals who have done well—Burmah (the oil company) followed last months BP and Shell increases with an increase of profits of 300%, from £17million to £87million and RTZ (the mining company testing for uranium in Donegal) increased its profits by 250% from £184million to almost £452 million.

So how come we workers are asked to pay for the crisis, by reduced real wages (last months inflation rate was 20%) and cutbacks in hospital services, employment, dole rates, etc, when those bastards are making more money than ever out of our labour and spending.

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Our answer as women should be, that, whilst glad the issue percolated through the upper echelons of the Trade Union movement, we cannot join in the procession until all people here are able to walk behind a banner of their choice as of right and that women themselves have their own banners to walk behind anyway, we don't need to be supplied with one.

SECTARIANISM + WORK

Last year, 1367 jobs were lost in the textile industry. These were concentrated in the predominantly Protestant towns of Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne and Saintfield as well as Derry and Lurgan. Along with the layoffs at Harland and Wolff in Belfast and GEC in Larne, this is the first concentrated attack on Protestant jobs for many years. Apart from the excellent propaganda exercise done by the Labour and Tory governments on the 'economic crisis' we ALL face, and Ian Paisley's 'Leave it to me I'll ask questions in the house', we have to look at the sectarian nature of the State.

The division of Catholic and Protestant has led to a serious weakness of workers resistance to the bosses. Northern Ireland has one of the best (if you prefer—worst) industrial relations records in Europe. Our history has given rare examples of united worker resistance, and when it has, the cry 'republican, communist, papist' has gone from the preachers, politicians and employers. The result is riots between workers, a return to work and even expulsion from the workplace of all Catholics and militants.

Why have Protestant workers been so easily fooled? As well as them benefitting materially, relative to Catholic workers, from the discrimination in jobs and housing, there is a strong identification with the State. Since its formation 60 years ago, Protestants were led to see it as their state, in which they had some say. They identify with the bosses, the very people they are in natural hostility to—those who rob them of the wealth they create and dump them on the scrapheap when they are not needed.

Another related reason is the provision of jobs for Protestants in the security industry. Apart from the 12,500 British soldiers on the streets here, local employment is created by the UDR (2,593 full time and 5,140 part time) the RUC (6,110 full time and 4,808 reserve) civilian searchers (318), thousands of security staff and shop searchers (subsidised by the State), and the prison staff. These figures are all out of proportion to any 'normal' capitalist state.

And what of the Catholic workers? When on occasion they have tried to reject management proposals such as at Antrim Crystal they have fallen foul of the other side of the sectarian coin. They put their faith in Catholic Union officials, in this case Paddy Devlin. His treacherous dealings, behind socialist rhetoric, saw most of the young militant workforce out on the dole queue, where the management had first put them before they had occupied the factory.

Before finishing, a note of optimism. There have been some examples of protestant workers resisting directly, such as the Coleraine factory occupation against closure last year. Although it failed, as do most attempts, because of their isolation in the face of the might of the industrialists (financial, market monopoly etc) it was the sort of action we should support.

Finally, we can't wish or vote or bomb sectarianism away, but we can and have to destroy its source—this state, the MPs, councillors, and union bureaucrats who gain from its existence. The State has institutionalised the relationship of class alliance on the one hand and sectarianism on the other. It was founded on coercion and discrimination. Its poison is reflected in the relations between workers, and not to fight against it is not to fight against that

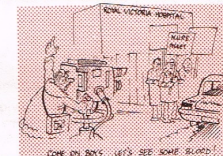
since it creates... 36(7). 11. 1978 - 79

ROLE OF THE UNIONS

Though in the early 1900's the trade unions were influenced by syndicalist methods of organisation and practice (direct democracy and direct action), as soon as they allied themselves with the Labour Party (here the NILP), they began the politics of mediation. The politics of handing over your power and responsibilities to others who will act on your behalf. It has led to elections, parliament and a belief in nationalisation—state socialism. The trade unions allied themselves with an organisation and ideology which later in Britain became the bosses.

At the workplace, because of the election and appointment of full time, non-revocable officials, a bureaucracy came about. Many Union Presidents are elected for LIFE and most union officials are APPOINTED, not elected. They have their own interests (as mediators with the bosses and pacifiers of the workplace—until pushed) and their own rewards (better pay and perks than the workers). They no longer identify with the workers, except in rhetoric, and often act as a police force, in the bosses' attempts to reestablish authority and stability in the workplace.

In many cases it's not only the bosses who have to be fought, but the trade unions as well. An example was the recent strike at the Royal Victoria Hospital when the workers on the job wanted to negotiate the security conditions themselves, after a soldier's gun had gone off in a corridor. Coulthard, the NUPE bureaucrat appointed from London, not only opposed the strike, saying he and McCormack would do it for them, but attacked the shop steward O Sullivan, and asked him to resign. Their authority and that of the hospital was challenged. Their combined forces proved too much



(cont'd from B1)

the evening when the scabs were leaving the police charged the picket lines firing their revolvers into the fleeing crowd. Six died.

Spies called a meeting the following night to protest at the murders. The meeting was small and Parsons did not arrive until late. He spoke and after he had gone only a man named Fielden was left speaking, and the meeting began to divide. Suddenly 180 police men truncheon-charged the meeting, a bomb was thrown, killing one policeman outright and wounding seven others. The police went berserk, clubbing and shooting into the darkness of the Haymarket. Evidence came to light later, that the bomb was thrown by a police agent.

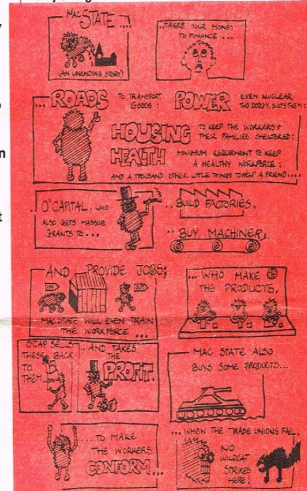
Parsons realising that the state wanted his life left Chicago. Spies, Fielden, Engel, Fisher, Louis Lings and Oscar Neebe were indicted for conspiracy to murder. Of these only Spies and Fielden had been on the scene at the time of the explosion. Parsons turned up at the beginning of the trial, claiming he couldn't bear to see his comrades, who were as innocent as he, be legally murdered.

Despite the fact that the jury consisted of business men, their clerks, and one relative of the dead policeman, the prosecution evidence still had to be changed because of the contradictions in the fabricated evidence. The court now claimed that the

and the porters and those who had refused to cross the picket line, were forced back to work.

The bosses have also been trying to clamp down on wildcat strikes by non union and small union workers. In Britain this has led to mergers with the bigger unions growing bigger and more bureaucratic, with deals between the union chiefs. And in the South, at the last Fine Gael conference, the spokesperson on industry proposed new legislation, whereby union membership was compulsory for new industry—an attempt to cut down on the wildcat strikes which have plagued the multinationals there.

Trade Unionism was brought into being to defend the workers against the bosses. Petitions, demonstrations, token strikes, conferences and the 'talks' with the Minister of State and the CBI are only the means of taking the steam out of our anger. They give the impression of doing something, but in the end it's the unions bureaucrats way of keeping us in place—the condition which the bosses demand if they are to grant the workers anything.



bomb was thrown by an unknown person who had been inspired by the accused. Sentence was passed...all would hang, except Neebe. Appeal was refused. One of them committed suicide in his cell, the rest hanged.

Three years later at the International Socialist Congress in Paris, it was decided to call an international one day strike in pursuit of an eight hour day and in memory of the Haymarket Anarchists. The strikes which followed were violent affairs, (especially in France), often ending in gun battles with the police.

In Britain, the Anarchists organised a protest in London...10,000 marched to Hyde Park to join with twice as many already assembled....The more respectable trade unionists, however, decided to wait it out...and marched on the Sunday instead!

The time had arrived when the workers were fighting back...a fight which has been long and bitter and is still not over....but to see Carlin and friends wallowing in the making of petty rules, makes you think that they did 90 years on, the bosses, the oppressors are still out there. More and more of the big multi-nationals are coming into Ireland to rip us off; the traditional unionist bosses are still lining their pockets while thousands are made redundant. And according to Carlin's rules, they are expected to fall in at the back of a march with the rest of the unemployed!

May Day should be about showing exploiters of every kind (from trade union bosses who make a living out of our problems, to ICI and Shorts), that we DON'T want or need deLorean sports cars, that we don't want or need blow-pipe anti-aircraft guns. That we don't want or need big motorways carving up the city...that we don't want to be told what we can do and where we can do it. May Day is about taking control of our own lives, controlling our work and conditions whether in the factory or the home, controlling the places where we live. It's about a demonstration of strength and solidarity with all workers in our daily fight against all bosses, all exploiters.

outta control

This is an article about drugs--ALL drugs, but more particularly those which some authority has declared to be 'illegal', and therefore must be 'controlled'...by them, of course. Little gets written about the drug laws, the drug industry, the 'drug scene' in Ireland.....instead we are constantly fed the platitudes that those drugs for sale on the open market are quite safe, necessary, or harmless to our well-being (i.e. all those numerous pills and remedies that the medical profession dispense at random). With other drugs, like tobacco and alcohol, governments are only too keen to let us decide for ourselves, as long as they can cut-in on the take! Those declared illegal (and backed up by the agents of their law and their order) are portrayed as nothing less than the stepping stones through perversity and craziness, to addiction and a horrible death. It's all very clear-cut and 'scientific'....but somewhat removed from reality. There IS a 'drug problem' in this country, of that there is no doubt, but it has a lot more to do with successive governments, the law, those that enforce the law, the profit-making drug companies, and the many practices of a Western capitalist culture....collectively THEY are the 'drug problem'. And not at all the increasing number of people learning yet again to experiment and develop through the use of natural, organic substances.

BUT HOW COME REALITY SEEMS TO BE ON ITS HEAD?

Perhaps a bit of history will help explain why some drugs are illegal (any dealings carrying stiff prison sentences) whilst other 'drugs' become a multi-million pound industry. It's not, as you might think, somehow connected to our 'welfare'...but has much more to do with racism, imperialism, police-power, and ignorance.

All cultures, at all times, have 'turned' on to something whether for religious/mystical purposes or just pure enjoyment beyond beyond the norm of everyday life. The use of marijuana*, for instance, spread westwards from China from about 5000BC. S.American cultures have used various hallucogenic plants for centuries. It's not something recently invented by the western flower-children of the 60's! Marijuana first came to Europe following the interest in the writings of other cultures that occurred during the Renaissance (15th & 16th. centuries)....the stems of the marijuana plant were invaluable for rope and sail-cloth, and played an important role in the mercantile trade boom. From George Washington to Queen Victoria, the very well documented medicinal uses of the marijuana plant were enjoyed** In the West, though, it was largely confined to the aristocracy...in the East, a part of daily life for all.

The 20th. century brought changes, the use of drugs such as opium, coca leaves, and marijuana from Eastern cultures began to play an important role in Western commerce: Britain, for example supplied China with Indian opium derived from the poppy plant...the government of the United States wanted in on the profits to be had. They instigated the 1912 Hague conference, an international government convention, to investigate all forms of natural drugs. The US government argued for world-wide illegalisation of drugs and control by governments. During the next 20 years various governments supported such illegalisation for a variety of reasons--and none of them for the benefit of the people themselves. S.Africa, Egypt, and Turkey were particularly interested in the outlawing of cannabis (marijuana or grass) due to the fear that its widespread use by workers and slaves would slow production; British trading interests were concerned about losing their grip on the opium trade in the colonies...but it was the US government, through the manufacture of drug-scare stories, who did most towards the eventual banning.

In the midst of the depression, jobs were scarce in the US. Unwanted and unemployed Chinese labourers became an easy target, and the illegalisation of opium (opium was favoured mainly by the Chinese) gave more credibility to the government-sponsored press stories like... 'Chinese doping young American maidens to make them slaves'....The US government were simply using opium to instill racism in the American workforce. It gave the unemployed an outlet, other than the government and the business interests, on which to vent their anger. Likewise with coca-leaves and its derivative cocaine...the Southern states resisted any black/white equality using the outlawing of cocaine to give credence to the lies about 'coke-crazed blacks raping young whites' etc. etc.. And all too often the racism and ignorance were believed, aided by the shock-horror presses. And likewise racism and business politics were behind the illegalisation of marijuana. Following the prohibition of alcohol in the 20's, marijuana became increasingly popular as an alternative, particularly with an influx of Mexicans looking for work... it was easier to deport Mexicans for 'illegal' marijuana use than to pay them welfare payments...so marijuana was banned also.

And Britain followed suit with the banning and control of certain drugs from 1917 onwards. (It was a mere coincidence that marijuana was included in these laws...Britain merely ratified an international agreement which included marijuana, but their prime interest was in the control and sale of opium.) The 30's, 40's, and 50's saw yet another turn in the 'drugs scene'. If racism and imperialist economics had been instrumental in forming the basis of our drug knowledge earlier in the century, it was the American narcotics squad which fed us our information thereafter. With alcohol no longer illegal in America, the Feds and G-men, who had become an industry in themselves, justified their enormous power-base with a crack-down on the 'evils' of marijuana smoking, as always equating it with crime, subversion, and anarchy! And the media, as always, were only too happy to go along with it... (it sold newspapers!). The illegalisation of drugs, used for centuries by many different cultures, was never based on 'scientific fact', the medicinal and pleasurable uses never considered.... racism, imperialism, cop-power, and red-scars were at the foundation of our modern drug laws. No wonder that drugs and crime seem to be two of a kind...but more of that later.

Throughout the prohibitive legislation of the 20's and 30's, the international medical profession did nothing to counteract the blatant propaganda--and for good reason. Any move away from herd cures could only but increase the saleability of their 'scientific' potions, neatly packaged and marketed as cures for all our ills. That such cure medicine rarely worked stimulated better advertising campaigns, rarely better medicine! (and it was always a 'cure'... never an attempt at tackling the various causes of illness and disease...it was much, much too difficult to 'market' that 'product'. Later in the 20th. century, as some people rejected the 'alien-culture racism' of international law, and were prepared to experiment with the ancient natural medicines and relaxants of the East, the legal chemical manufacturers began to find 'cures' for ALL our ills...and made it very profitable in the process. It became very big business, with illness and causes a mere side-issue in the race for profits, the research and development and packaging of the same old wonder drugs, the squabbling over patents, the massive advertising campaigns that accompany every new pill. The scientific establishment, with scientific advertising to gain our confidence, replaces and mystifies the whole notion of self-help, peoples cures and natural, herbal medicines. And controlled by a handful of international drug companies like Hoffman la Roche (of Seveso and Dioxin fame), ...a Swiss multi-national with an annual turnover of over £500m., but a very low turn-over of satisfied customers.

Continued overleaf

Continued from overleaf

The success of the chemical drug industry is reinforced, not just by their massive advertising campaigns, but by the attitudes prevailing throughout the Western medical profession.....always away from ANY degree of self-understanding, and towards the (predominantly male) medical hierarchy and the chemical fix only THEY can prescribe. Our bodies, our minds, our health are their possession; our mystery but their profit. 'Shoot-up and Shut-up' as SEDATION becomes the norm for the depressed, at work or in the home. Working-class women suffer most at the hands of these Quacks who prescribe twice as many sedatives for women as for men. Living in shit housing conditions, motor-ways running past their doors, heavily armed Brits running through their lives, nowhere for the kids to play, demanding aggressive husbands, women are DOPED TO COPE. The pseudo-scientific technical/chemical fix called LIBRIUM or VALIUM, the Hoffman la Roche answer to 'anxiety' or 'psychic tension'. The 'womens problem' is reduced to their inability to cope with their predestined 'natural' role! The 'scientifically-proven' wonder drugs of the 60's, 70's, and 80's become part of daily life...and never mind the physical as well as the psychological problems...[the bad side effects, the dangers during pregnancy, dangers of mixing with alcohol, the very real addiction problems...in fact, all the problems normally associated with 'illegal' drugs can be yours every time you visit the local doctor!]. And if you don't consider THAT to be criminal, there's more...read on. So, with a neat mix of racial prejudice and economics we end up with a series of draconian drug laws which scientists continually try to justify? Therefore when we think of drug laws we think of corruption, addiction, craziness and death...and that's how the law appears as our only safeguard for sanity. That it's not, hardly matters as long as enough people go along with THEIR way of thinking, consuming their horror stories in their daily rag. A beginning is, of course, to try a smoke for yourself. Their prejudices and guilt-trips are difficult to overcome, but hardly impossible. The consumption of organic, natural substances is only a crime because of the accumulated prejudice and racism that ends up as the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971)...and sentencing in the north of Ireland is particularly severe, not because of a greater 'drug problem' here, but because of the ignorance of the magistrates and judges who can never hope to understand the full use of the brain; and a DS always ready to justify their existence and penalise those they catch as vindictively as possible....aided by some non-entity from Queens University whose 'authoritative' article in the N.I. Legal Review convinces judges that a 'custodial sentence for a first offence is more common in N.I.'

So that's one aspect of the drug problem...but there IS a very real connection with crime that should not be ignored. As long as there's laws prohibiting the use of natural drugs-any law, any drug-there will be 'crime' as professionals take over for the money (whether Belfast, Dublin, or Columbia). And the drug becomes a refined yet impure COMMODITY, far removed from its origins...snorting very expensive cocaine rather than chewing coca leaves, injecting heroin rather than smoking opium; the use of dirty needles; and dealing out hash rather than growing marijuana. Heroin junkies do, of course, exist (though nowhere near the scale of those destroyed by alcohol and valium) and its not a glorious scene...but they are more the victims of our legislated culture than slugs of drug abuse. The state response to people, feelings, and consciousness is always prohibition...legislation, police, courts, and prisons. It's always the SCARE education of the drug squad, and media whereby their ignorance and puritanism freaks out an inquisitive conscience, or steers it towards aerosol sprays and doctored morning-glory seeds. (NOT RECOMMENDED) Real drug education literature is legally classified as obscene, and those caught communicating with others are guilty of corruption and a danger to society.

Marijuana, opium, coca leaves, and psilocybin mushrooms may not be the choice of everyone, but our individual scope and preferences can only be discovered in a society where social communication is the priority, NOT legal prohibition based on ignorance, racism, imperialism, and a prison sentence!

*marijuana, cannabis, hash...various derivatives of the leaves and flowers of the marijuana plant. It will grow anywhere if there is no frost, some sunlight, and a head-start against other plants.

**medicinal uses include constipation, rheumatism, menstrual cramps, difficult child-birth, fevers, convulsions, dysentery, appetite stimulant, analgesic and an aphrodisiac.

†one medical report on the use of cannabis bases its horror story on the fact that if rats smoke 3 times their body weight in grass every day for 3 months, they would become ill! Rightly so!!

BANNED----	LEGAL CLASSIFICATION
1917... COCAINE, HEROIN, MORPHINE	A : COCAINE, COCA LEAVES, HEROIN, L.S.D, MESCALIN
1925... CANNABIS	A : MORPHINE, OPIUM, ANGEL DUST (P.C.P.)
1964... AMPHETAMINES	B : AMPHETAMINES AND CANNABIS (NOT SEEDS)
1966... L.S.D. (AC'D)	C : MANDRAX, MILD AMPHETAMINES.

SENTENCING		CROWN COURT	
MAGISTRATES COURT		POSSESSION	SUPPLY
POSSESSION	SUPPLY	POSSESSION	SUPPLY
A UP TO 6 MONTHS AND/OR £1000 FINE		UP TO 7 YEARS AND/OR UNLIMITED FINE	UP TO 14 YEARS AND/OR UNLIMITED FINE
B UP TO 3 MTHS AND/OR £500 FINE	UP TO 6 MONTHS AND/OR £1000 FINE (INCLUDES GROWING)	UP TO 5 YEARS AND/OR UNLIMITED FINE	UP TO 14 YEARS AND/OR UNLIMITED FINE
C UP TO 3 MTHS AND/OR £200 FINE	UP TO 3 MTHS AND/OR £500 FINE	UP TO 2 YEARS AND/OR UNLIMITED FINE	UP TO 5 YEARS AND/OR UNLIMITED FINE

INFORMATION ON THEIR LAW COMES FROM RELEASE, 1 EILEIN AVENUE, LONDON W.9. THEY CAN BE CONTACTED TO GIVE ADVICE AND ALSO HAVE TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF GOOD SOLICITORS IN BOTH DUBLIN AND BELFAST. LIKE OUTTA CONTROL, THEY NEED FONDS. 01-603-8054 IS THEIR 24-HR. EMERGENCY NO.

PSILOCYBIN MUSHROOMS FRESH ONES ARE STILL LEGAL : DRIED ONES COULD BE CONSIDERED AS A 'PREPARATION'... BUT IT CAN BE DEFENDED ON THE GROUNDS THAT ONLY A CHEMIST CAN 'PREPARE' OR EXTRACT THE 'ILLEGAL' BIT! c/o "JUST BOOKS" 7 WINDYBARN ST. BELFAST 1. 0132-254726

COMMENTS TO "OUTTA CONTROL"

CHARLIE'S ANGEL DUST

At the end of March, Jim McCann, who was charged with possession of 1/2 a million pounds worth of dope, and possession of a pistol with intent to endanger life, walked free from the Central Criminal Court, after one of the most inept prosecution cases ever heard in Ireland. The whole bust from the beginning was shrouded in mystery with different versions of what happened that night on the Naas Road lay-by appearing in the local and national papers. Some contradicting others, just as garda evidence at the trial contradicted the most commonly accepted story that had appeared in the press at the time of the bust - a story that had come from the gardai, of course.

Certain events help explain the ease of McCann's acquittal. The re-appearance of some of the Thai grass from the bust for sale on the streets of Dublin must have been part of the price of McCann's freedom (though one member of the gardai has been questioned about this, the DPP has decided not to press charges). The other part of it would appear to be McCann's silence. In an interview with that scurrilous sexist rag the Sunday World after his release, McCann claimed that if the trial had continued he would have had to make some revelations about happenings at the beginning of the '70s that would prove very embarrassing to a 'highly placed politician'. The immediate reaction is to think of Haughey and arms, though the drugs angle should not be discounted. When the present southern drugs act was being debated in the Dail, Haughey fought it tooth and nail, particularly the bit that allows the DS to search houses, cars, yachts etc on suspicion and without a warrant. early in the '70s a drunken Sunday World reporter in Cork claimed that Haughey was one of the main men behind the importation of dope into Ireland. That the story was never printed has more to do with a fear of reprisals from Haughey, than with any lack of evidence. Many of Haughey's business deals have been 'shady' - such as his purchase of land in N.Dublin which was immediately rezoned for development, giving Haughey a tidy sum.

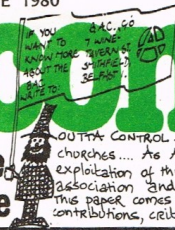
The whole question of dope importing and dealing in the South brings in local and not so local mafia which run the scene. And that's how such bad dope hits the streets... perhaps some dealers falling out accounts for the so-called 'supergrass' knocking about. This is just grass cut with 'angel dust' - a very powerful psychochemical which can hit some people in very bad ways. It also enables Mullins and friends of the DS to crack down even harder, particularly with a 'legalise it' campaign run by Ubi Dwyer just beginning to get off the ground. Shock horror scare stories, fed by the DS, is the level of their 'education'.

† grass can be checked for the presence of angel dust...put some grass in water and angel dust will float out;

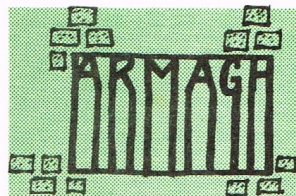
POSSESSION: THEY HAVE TO PROVE IT IS A CONTROLLED DRUG, THOUGH ANY DRUG LITERATURE LYING ABOUT COULD BE USED AGAINST YOU. KNOWING SOMEONE ELSE HAS A CONTROLLED DRUG IS NOT AN OFFENCE; PRIOR POSSESSION IS, BUT DIFFICULT TO PROVE UNLESS YOU ADMIT IT. TRACES CAN BE FOUGHT AS LONG AS YOU DON'T SAY IT WAS PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER. NEVER SAY YOU'VE TRIED IT IN THE PAST, OR AHEAD. SUPPLY: COULD INCLUDE THE PASSING OF A BINT. AN OFFER OF SUPPLY IS ENOUGH FOR THEM. THERE'S ONLY ONE RULE - SAY AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE AND GET A SOLICITOR.

outta control

News & Views of the
Belfast Anarchist Collective



OUTTA CONTROL ... of the state, bosses, patriarchy, schooling, churches ... Anarchists we oppose the authority and exploitation of this society, and advocate one of free association and self-management. This paper comes out every 2-3 weeks and we welcome contributions, criticisms etc.



WOMEN HIGHLIGHT NO WASH PROTEST!

Armagh was the centre of the repressive stage this month. Rose McAllister, 41 with four children, became the first woman to emerge from the no-wash protest in the prison after serving 2 years; three women went to jail after picketing the prison; the National H-Block held a march in Armagh and the Armagh Protest Committee organised another picket in the town.

On Mayday Rose McAllister was the 1st woman to be released since the prison authorities forced the protestors on to the no-wash campaign.

Afterwards she talked about how she had to steel herself in the prison to bear the insults and degradation from the warders. Although not realising at the time, she conditioned herself not to have emotions in order to survive the 23 hour lockup and the prospect of only a half-hour visit every month.

Much of her previous self confidence has gone, and she has difficulty feeling for her children, and even in shopping. She feels physically tired, but not from overwork, more from a couldn't-care-less attitude. But despite the effort needed to cope with the pressures of dehumanisation inside she is emphatic that the alternative — a non-recognition of the result of special police, special interrogation, special courts, special holdings laws, special charges, i.e. special prisoners — is unacceptable.

Ann Marie Loughran was the 1st of those who refused to pay her fine and be imprisoned on 3rd May. Margaretta D'Arcy gave herself up on the 14th, and Liz Lagrue on the 16th, to serve 4 and 2 months respectively on the protest in A-wing.

After the picket by Women Against Imperialism on International Womens Day last year, the pickets were attacked by the RUC when returning to the buses. 11 of them were arrested and twice turned up for the trial, but it was twice postponed — the second time because a large contingent from England, Scotland, and Ireland (mainly feminists) turned up in support. They refused to attend again and were fined in their absence.

After one week, someone anonymous paid Anne Marie's fine, which left her bitter, because of the dilution of her show of solidarity with the protesters inside. The other two hope the same trick won't be repeated.

On Sunday 11th, the buses going to Armagh to the National H-Block march were forced to take a long detour and were delayed at checkpoints. The march itself was, as usual, blocked from entering the town centre, which had been closed off and sealed up.

The point was made in the speeches that the protesters are not so much seeking better treatment than the other prisoners, as a recognition of their treatment all along the line as specially vicious.

On the return journey the buses were again forced to take a long detour, but the spirit and determination of the few hundred from Belfast who travel all over the North, seemed inexhaustible.

Finally on Sat 24th the Armagh Protest Committee organised a picket to once again highlight the conditions inside and in immediate response to the imprisonment of the 2 women who were denied that right to picket over those conditions.



Margaretta D'Arcy & Liz Lagrue

BRUM'S RUSH

It was no coincidence that as the NUJ were holding their Annual Conference in Portrush and debating about the strict censorship of information on Ireland, that the Home Office opportunistically decided to admit UTV on a conducted tour of the H-Blocks.

No doubt they choose UTV, which is controlled by Unionist Brum Henderson & Co., as giving a very favourable report in the governments interest. It took 2-3 weeks to transmit it, after putting it through a fine tooth comb removing anything mildly disturbing before getting final approval from the Home Office.

The report consisted of TV hack, Gary Gillespie being given the red carpet treatment by the screws sampling the food etc., yum yum! The main crux of the matter of course, should have been to actually talk to the prisoners and see what they had to say about conditions, but of course the prison authorities wouldn't permit this (much to UTV's relief!) Now UTV can 'justifiably' say "How dare you accuse us of ignoring controversial issues, haven't we made a programme on H-Block" This sustains their credibility in many peoples eyes.

However more and more people are waking up to the lies, distortions and superficial handling of issues which deeply effect ordinary people, which are pumped out daily. They are seeing these media careerists for what they really are - paid agents of social control!

DIRECT ACTION No mediators! No vampires!

There must be few and maybe not any working class areas throughout the city that do not have their own committees to deal with housing, redevelopment, leisure, a certain lack of amenities, local festivals and a variety of other topics.

The vast majority of these organisations have been set up in Northern Ireland after the mass rallies and demonstrations of the Civil Rights days. They have been encouraged by the British Government, first through the Ministry of Community Relations and its community development team and now by the City Councils Community Services Department with their field officers. These 'agents of the government' told us that if we set up bodies with committees that had acceptable constitutions and responsible citizens, we would be rewarded with financial aid to build community centres, hold festivals etc. It was impressed upon us that committees were the best way to get things done. We were to give the City Council etc., credibility and power by channelling our efforts towards them. We were granted money for our own headed notepaper, a phone, and office maybe and instead of all collectively clamouring for a real change in our lives we were jostling with each other for proper appointments with the various government bodies. Trying to get the best deal for our own little community, and maybe at the expense of another less organised group. The committee structure gave us the illusion of power to change circumstances through negotiation. And indeed small concessions were made from time to time to keep the illusion credible. One of the worst consequences was that we isolated our social problems. We set up one committee to deal with redevelopment, one to deal with housing and so on, when in fact people do not have housing as a particular problem, unemployment as a particular problem, nor do we have 'mental' disorders, breakups in the family, battered wives and children as a particular problem, but that these are all connected and it is dangerous to isolate them; to let people think that they can solve them one at a time. Community development was a very clever move by the state to have us think in pigeon holes.

The division of social needs into compartments causes hardship when, even if you do succeed in finding the right connection, you discover that you must turn to a dozen agencies for your different needs. Once we perceive that all problems stem from the same source, the authoritarian capitalist system, then we are more likely to organise for real change, and less chance of us being bought off with concessions and reforms.

cc ntd. p4

The mining companies were exploring for over a year in Donegal, before opposition to it really got off the ground. Over the past 9 months word of the dangers and rip-offs have been brought to the notice of the local people—and they acted accordingly. Meeting after meeting, discussions, demonstrations, pickets, sabotaged sites and machinery... The fact is it is known that they don't want or need any part of the nuclear fuel cycle in their lives. And now the mining companies and the state and the business community are fighting back....not with the energy and honesty of those opposed to the uranium mining.

The mining companies, silent for so long, now manoeuvre a worker against worker, local person against local person. The companies in Donegal have threatened to pull out if work is disrupted (even though it is EEC grants, disruption or no disruption, which keep them there). They forecast redundancies (of a mere handful) if local jobs which is all they will ever be able to offer and so get the workers to argue the defenceless case. And unfortunately, the total lack of jobs in the area for so long, makes the job seem worth defending! So it is workers, in company cars who have been distributing smear leaflets against the anti-uranium people, and who passed a 'vote-of-confidence' in the mining company. And it was a local person who tried to set-up a member of the local anti-uranium committee as being a British agent. He (and it was a 'he') posed as a member of the IRA and sent copies of a fictitious letter to the local media which would 'prove' that a member of the local anti-uranium committee was being financed by British Intelligence to stop the mining! It fooled no-one.

So the mining companies, the state, the academics ('with no vested interest') and the business community fight back....and what is the local response? The Donegal Uranium Committee, formed mainly of local, articulate professionals, plan to call upon the Oxford Political Ecology Research Group to

What is still needed is a mixture of meeting after meeting, self-education, county-wide education, common-sense, pickets, harassment and consistent sabotage. It is the only sure way of making the uranium unworkable and unprofitable, and to replace the madness we have to rely on to get a job.

Despite the Southern government's recent public relations statements about nuclear power, the EEC continues to push their 'uranium policy'. They are

As they say... 'Accepting the deal in order to escape the judicial obstacle race was a decision not easily agreed to. In doing so, we re-affirm that we do NOT feel that there was anything wrong with what we did-- (in a moral rather than tactical sense) and will continue to fight the Irish govt.--ec uranium mining policy'.

Valuable lessons all round—the tactical disadvantages of passively getting caught have been made known to everyone. Just possibly the posters and leaflets calling for support in the weeks pre-ceding the trial may have prompted the ‘deal’....perhaps a similar ILLUSION could help the case of the remaining 2 protestors arrested outside the occupation. They too, need our active, not passive support! Mutual Aid. There case comes up soon.

ABC of Anarchy contd.

DURRUTI BECAME A LEGENDARY FIGURE IN SPAIN IN THE 1930'S, BECAUSE 1stly OF HIS WORKPLACE MILITANCY, LATER HIS PART IN THE NOSOTROS GUERRILLA GROUP, & THEN HIS ORGANISATIONAL SKILLS IN THE REVOLUTION.

Three people were arrested last Sunday on the Ormeau Rd. for possession of 'Prison Struggle', paper of the Relatives Action Committee. They were charged under Section 11 which meant they could be held for 3 days.

They were then taken to Castlereagh, separated up, and subjected to long periods of interrogation. At the start they were photographed and fingerprinted, though this is illegal without a judge's warrant.

There were usually 2 (sometimes 3) detectives, and the interrogation periods (about 5 each) lasted from 2 to 5 hours, with a different team of detectives each session.

During these sessions the 2 interrogators usually sat on one side of a table, and the prisoner on the other. The only other furniture was 2 video cameras, but as was said once 'Don't take consolation in them, we'll beat you up when we want.

Sometimes one of the interrogators would stand behind, and scream into the suspects ear, while the other screamed into their face. There was the continual fear that the one behind would resort to physical attack. This proved the most frightening tactic, and was dropped only when the suspect would answer satisfactorily. So when the interrogator sat down again in front, the suspect was under pressure to keep answering in the same vein to prevent a recurrence.

There was the continual carrot and stick alternation, from vicious verbal attack and threats (you're in here for 7 days and then Crumlin prison for 9 months'), to the disconcerting expression of concern for you and your family's safety.

Each of the 3 was totally isolated (except when twice they tried to trick them by bringing them together when they thought they gave them different information). All rooms were white, with no windows, and it was difficult to tell day from night. The cells with bed and chair chained to the floor, and the interrogation rooms were hot and stuffy, with the pipes turned on all the time.

For the day and a half they were held the interrogators tried to engage them in political conversation and set traps for them eg. If you campaign against the conditions in prisons, support the protests, sell papers, then you politically agree with the organisations of the prisoners, and so are a Provo or whatever. A microcosm of the states polarisation — you either support it or are a terrorist.

The separation of the 3 also meant the interrogators could claim that the others had implicated the 3rd in the statement.

Finally a couple of bits of advice. Say as little as possible, but if you have to answer (eg. during a 4 hour barrage of them bawl-in your face, its difficult not to answer back) then restrict your answers to what involves you.

After every interview you should make a complaint to the inspector, who's usually in the corridor, about the mental as well as physical torture you've received. Lastly, don't get caught!

"FROM LAST WEEKS 'SUNDAY TIMES' - PAUL MCCARTNEY SAYS 'MY DAUGHTER SHE'S IT.' HE INTO PUNK & SHE HAD THIS BOWLING - WAS TO MEET AN ARABIAN WITH A BIG A' ON HIS BACK. HE SAID HE WANTED HER BUT HE MEANT HE WANTED THE PRECIOUS STONE. HE SAID IT STOPPED FOR A MOMENT WHEN HE SAW WHAT HE NEEDED WHEN I SAID THAT TO WALK DOWN THE STREET & HAVE SOME LAUGH AT THE WAY HE NEEDED. NO POLICE, NO ARMY MEANT NO GOVERNMENT NO BUS SERVICES, NO ACTING SHOWS, NO PRIZE, ANACHRONISM... WELL RICH KID, LOT OF IT. BUT I'D SAY HE WAS INSPIRED."

WOMEN IN MEDIA want any women who have had adoptions in Northern Ireland or gone to England for them and who are prepared to write about their experiences (anonymously) to contact them at Box WIM, 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast. They are compiling a pamphlet on abortion and any financial donation towards that would be really tremendous.

This year's National Union of Journalists conference was held in Portrush. The holding of conferences by the sea is traditional because of the scenery and clear air, but in the context of N.U.J. also a way of keeping people, who are paid to be inquisitive, away from the blemishes. It provided a peaceful backdrop to the mayor of Coleraine's welcoming speech to the delegates; 'N.U.J. returning to normality' and even more boldly, 'The R.U.C. are internationally respected' (by who? Chile? South Africa?)

The delegates were also bussed to Derry Guildhall for a reception with its mayor, and on Saturday given a FREE banquet at the Northern Counties by the Chamber of Commerce.

But there is a small number of journalists who are beginning to question the censorship of news from Northern Ireland. They heckled the Mayor of Coleraine, picked out the banquet, and draped a banner "Smash H. Bloomberg off the balcony of the conference hall. The Belfast branch repudiated by putting up their own "Supreme Order", which was removed after a heated exchange" (as they say in the press). This was the first time that such inroads were made in to NUJ complacency about the censorship of information from here.

Another illustration is the 2 motions passed-59 & 60.

This ADM demands an end to the continued operation of direct and indirect censorship of reporting of the war in Ireland and calls on the NEC to combat this censorship. In particular ADM calls upon the NEC to:

- (i) Campaign for open access by journalists to prisoners 'on the blanket' in the H-block, Long Kesh, so that NUJ members can report on the conditions there. A report to be published in The Journalist.
- (ii) Publicise in The Journalist, and other media, all incidents of censorship in connection with the war in Ireland.
- (iii) Oppose any moves to restrict access by journalists to representatives of the Provisional Sinn Féin, Provisional Irish Republican Army, Irish Republican Socialist Party, Irish National Liberation Army and any other organisation.

ADM is appalled at the threat to press freedom inherent in recent attacks on NUJ members, in particular the "Panorama" team involved in the "Carrickmore" incident. It supports the firm stand taken by the Broadcasting Chapels in defending successfully the members involved.

This ADM condemns:

- (a) The consistent failure of the Board of Governors of the BBC to defend their journalists in the face of political attack.
- (b) The irresponsible behaviour of politicians who made unfounded statements about NUJ members without adequate investigation of the facts or any subsequent apology.
- (c) The unprofessional behaviour of certain national newspapers and agencies for their biased and distorted reporting and comment.

ADM is of the strong opinion that all those hysterical reactions put at risk the lives of all NUJ members working in Northern Ireland and Press Freedom generally. ADM instructs the NEC to issue clear guidelines to all Chapels setting out the duty owed by journalists to their colleagues and to unbiased reporting and comment and to take every step to ensure that further action of this sort is firmly dealt with under Rule.

A further motion was prevented from being debated by the NEC putting it down on the list, knowing there would be no time for it.

For the 1st time also at a conference a separate meeting was held by Charter (the rank and file NUJ group) on how censorship works and how to challenge it.

Danny Morrison from Republican News related the story of how their writers had been arrested and held for six months before being released, and the destruction and theft by the Brits of the papers, equipment, typewriters, files etc.....

E Mc Cann, in spite of his job as news editor of the sexist and trivialising Sunday World, gave a useful account of how journalists working here practice self censorship. They write what they know the editors won't kick up a stink about. This means heavy relying on the army and RUC press statements. An example of how they write a good story (the latter being the operative word) happened the day of the Airery Neave escape (from this world).

The Daily Mirror reporter in N.I. was having a drink in the Blackthorn Pub in Belfast when the news flash of Neave's death came on the tele. The reporter, who hadn't been in contact with his head office that day, panicked. He needed an angle, and so asked his drunken companion - E. McCann

"why would they have done that?" McCann gestured. "To get the Tories a sympathy vote" (it was almost election time). Immediately the Mirrors hack was on the phone to head office. And next day the headlines ran - "we'll blast the Tories to Power - Provos". They even claim to have had a statement to that effect (tho in fact it was the INLA). When asked later if he felt a fool, the reply was "it was a good story on the Day".

More serious was the account by a Thameside (Manchester) NUJ member, who related how that branch had worked very hard to expose coverage (a lack of it) on Ireland both in the union and the Trades Council, and that it was successful in its invitation to a member of IRSP to speak, immediately the local press began a smear campaign with such headlines as "Terror Talk" and "The pro-IRA IRSP!" (ii) Shortly afterwards the fascist N.F. organised a march through the town, which was met by the Trades Council from using its property. The Trades Council was involved in disaffiliating the T.C. for its stand. There is now a campaign to reaffiliate, and as part of this and their broader work, the branch has organised a conference on Ireland for June 7th in Thameside. ("War in the North") A further initiative is a workshop in Oxford and Thameside available from Just Books.

Being a true union, there was much talk of how to challenge the present set up of the media barons (private and state) who own and control the means of mass communication, rather than attempt to bypass them and set up our own means. While it is important to expose and challenge the censorship in the "gutter press", it also necessary, if we want to overcome them completely, to start preparing and operating media under our own control. After all people are journalists, not because they want to make information available to all, but primarily because they are paid money.

demonstrate the inherent racism of US society.

But has Carter fallen for a Castro trick (one from which it had no choice), and why have so many wanted to, and been able to, leave — an average last week of 3,000 a day, with a final figure of 200,000?

First of all its been nearly impossible to leave Cuba for most people wanting to, except for a similar exit in 1965 and tailing off in 1973 of 250,000. Until that is, last Easter. The guards from the Peruvian embassy in Havana were removed, and a van with a loudspeaker toured the streets announcing the fact. Within a few days 10,000 people were crammed into the embassy grounds looking for visas. Then more recently Castro announced that people were free to leave by boat, which led to the present stream of small craft into Miami.

It appeared to be a gift to the Western capitalist press, but few realised that its thought that counts.

Since the revolution, Fidel Castro has become the 'Lider Maximo' and the Communist Party the administrative arm of his one party state. Through the militarisation of daily life, down to the schools; economic austerity, for reasons of state profit; and a patriarchal sexual morality, he has run the country as a military dictator. The only method of resistance has been non-cooperation, apathy and passivity. Anything else has lead to imprisonment.

HOW TO SOLVE THE "PROBLEM" OF-
DISOBEDIENCE, HOMOSEXUALITY,
OPPOSITION, CRITICISM, ETC.
IN ONE SHOVE.



Evidence of this apathy came to light last year when it was announced (for the first time during his regime) that those who wished to stand for the local council elections did not have to belong to the Communist Party. It was obvious that not enough people were voting.

And lo and behold during the recent "crisis" large crowds of demonstrators gathered outside the embassy grounds and ports chanting the glories of the regime, and the 'criminal nature' of those wanting to leave it. So, as in Iran, a clever move to motivate support, and distract attention away from internal problems (in this case the disastrous economic planning where even basics are rationed) has been engineered.

There is a strong ideological conflict between Cuba and the U.S.A. Many visiting emigres appear wealthy and free, compared to the meagre and strict lifestyle of Cubans. Castro has gambled on regaining support for his "revolutionary" regime, at the expense of a political gain for Carter, whose foreign policies could well do with a patching up! Most of those in the middle who have escaped the prison island, are not yet bothered about the second class citizenship they face in the U.S. And those left behind having shown their faces, will not be forgiven!

Anarchist Comrade Des Keane received 8 years in the Dublin Special Court. The Special Court like the Diplock Court has no jury and depends on police perjury, beatings etc. to win convictions.

Des who was always active on prisoners issues and has already spent 5 years in the Curragh Military Detention Centre was found guilty on an attempted larceny charge.

His Barrister pointed out how Des was hounded out of two jobs one in the Dept. of Agriculture and one in the Post Office, because he appeared on an R.T.E. programme dealing with the conditions of civilians in the Curragh., he also pointed out the difficulties prisoners have in securing jobs outside.

Judges don't take these things into account and the Special Branch were pleased with their dirty work in the name of Justice.

CUBA

'Scum, parasites, criminals, lumpen, homosexual' — these are the Cuban embassy's (London) descriptions of those now leaving the 'Paradise Island' for any country that will take them. Florida, USA, has one of the largest emigre Cuban populations, and is the nearest country, which explains why most of them are heading there.

Anything that will appear to harm the image of Communist Cuba, will only but help the image of Capitalist USA. It is even seen to 'care', despite its record of exploitation and harassment of legal and illegal immigrants from other Spanish speaking Central American states, such as Mexico and Puerto Rico. The recent Black riots in Miami

Continued from outside cover

when they stole from George Martin McGrady a time in his life which is of great importance to him. This convenience by the apparatus of Law and Order must not be allowed to pass unnoticed and without protest. There are already too many McGrady's

locked away in the jails and prison camps in this country. And if we on the outside brush it aside as if it has nothing to do with us then we are just as repressive as the courts, police and prisons. The call for justice and liberty must be intensified and prolonged.

HM.GOVERNMENT WARNING "all at home must go to the fail-out room and stay inside the inner refuge, keeping the radio tuned for government advice and instructions"

Governments work in strange and mystifying ways, of that there is no doubt. They feed us THEIR propaganda, we believe what THEY want us to believe, rather than what is ACTUALLY going on. Take the new cold-war we suddenly wake up to one morning... The aggressive, menacing, Soviet invasion of poor, defenceless Afghanistan is the cause, we are dutifully informed day after day. Not quite true... but we need to penetrate the lies and ideology of our Western government, the views they express day after day, the bombardment of essentially false information, to get at what is actually going on.

And the truth is quite simple...the so-called capitalist recession gets worse...the ability of multi-nationals to produce more and more to make profits through our consumption and energy, is having a temporary (?) relapse, state welfare spending gets cut, industrial 'leaders' rationalise the work-force (i.e. more exacting, dull, repetitive work, more robotisation...the technical fix)...but amid it all we have an expanding and booming armaments industry!! Hard to understand, hard to accept, but governments wrap it up well with a barrage of deceiving propaganda about Soviet might, Soviet aggression, the need for 'defence' (!) etc. etc...No matter that the aggressor on the world stage is the US-led NATO forces, with the Soviet military leadership a frightened, paranoid, and dangerous REACTOR to the 'Western Alliance'. (That doesn't, of course, either excuse or justify what the Soviet militarists are getting up to...it's merely putting them in their proper context).

It is the armaments industry, the production of useless destruction, which is the linchpin of the industrialised economies. That, more than anything else, consumes our energy; it is armaments, more than anything else, where governments must deceive us. And it is NOT the theory of 'mutual destruction' (whereby each leadership is deterred from warfare as all would be wiped out) that is being considered...but a clear US-Nato strategy to win a nuclear war. For us to peaceably accept, and not question the horrific consequences of that, the full might of their propaganda machine is brought to the fore... (and, as discussed later, they have a very useful, secret military/civilian back-up system

for times of emergency, and should there be any internal dissent). It is indeed incredible that we are being led to believe that the 540 medium and long-range nuclear missiles (capable of destroying huge chunks of European Russia) that are being financed and donated to their European allies by the US, are for OUR peace and defence. That is what we are repeatedly told. These nuclear missiles (160 of them for Britain) start arriving from September onwards, and only the US-Nato bosses and the US National Security Council led by mad-man Z.Brezinski of the Trilateral fame know where they will be based. They are vital to US militarist thinking, and the US armaments economy...they are NOT for defence!

US-Nato have come up with a neat nuclear strategy for 'winning the war'...and it's so simple!...Europe becomes the battlefield, the theatre, where the superior cruise and Pershing 11 missiles can battle it out with the new Soviet SS20 missiles...the US does not even get touched, Europe gets devastated, and the long-range MX missiles planned for the Utah and Nevada (by 1987) haven't even been used! The US-Nato strategy is based on winning this first strike; it leads to a devastated Europe, many casualties in W. Russia, but NO casualties whatsoever on American soil!! Very clever.

The decision to place the cruise missiles in Europe was officially announced in Dec. 1979, two weeks before the Soviet military invasion of Afghanistan, (and 3 days before a US-Nato statement said that the 1980's were to be a decade of arms control!!). The invasion is an attempt at consolidating the ineffectual communist government which already existed there. They were attempting to crush all resistance to Soviet communism something the local communist government were having remarkably little success with. The proud, independent Afghani tribes have resisted the British interests, Pakistan, Iran, and now the Soviet Union. However it was the US-Nato decision on the cruise missiles which finally prompted the Soviet tanks... and NOT the grand world-control scares as pumped out by W. governments and their obedient media. Such propaganda aims at concealing THEIR war strategy! For Thatcher and co. to go on about retaliatory measures by boycotting the Olympics is sheer

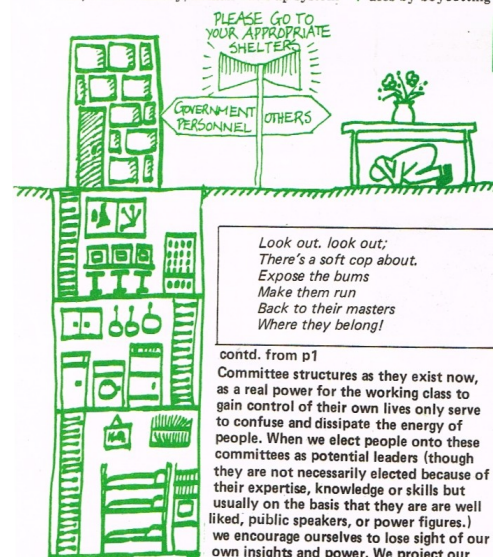
hypocrisy--fuck the lot of them, olympics and all!--our support goes to those fighting the military elites on ALL sides.

Meanwhile, the British government, alongside their grovelling acceptance of the US-Nato 'defence gift' (costing £2,500m...a real boost for the California arms industry; the British contribution a mere £10m)...are secretly spending £1000m, on restoring their out-dated POLARIS 'independent deterrent'...that it is relatively useless does not deter them...it aids the armaments industry which is the number one priority for the economy. Better to waste it on armaments, than to build houses, hospitals, or nurseries.

War jingoism keeps capitalism ticking over; as the Brit army regiments practice chemical and biological warfare at Porton Down in England, the armaments manufacturers sell the equipment to their Nato allies - The squaddies, of course, are just badly paid sales representatives with very dangerous working conditions!

Even though the military war-theatre is Europe, the govt., military elite, and top civil servants will not suffer...they have their own personalised defences. As they tell us to hide behind brown paper bags, their double-talk and double-think encourages us to believe in civil defence...but that's just another term for 'military-govt. defences', with a police-military leadership. Throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, there are a series of underground control centres, (the Armed Forces HQ they are called: one of them is below a dole office in Hereford!) with a further series of underground shelters for the govt. and top civil servants; and yet another series of shelters for more localised management and control in times of nuclear war or revolutionary unrest. (There are 20 such bases in S. Ireland; there is also one in Belfast, below Post Office House.) These are the plans for a military take-over in Britain and Ireland should there be a European nuclear war!

The governments have made their plans, built their defences, are installing their weapons...that it is called civil defence, global peace, or deterrence is just another lie. That our opposition to their madness just aids the Russians is NOT the issue...those resisting militarism anywhere are our allies.



contd. from p1

Committee structures as they exist now, as a real power for the working class to gain control of their own lives only serve to confuse and dissipate the energy of people. When we elect people onto these committees as potential leaders (though they are not necessarily elected because of their expertise, knowledge or skills but usually on the basis that they are well liked, public speakers, or power figures.) we encourage ourselves to lose sight of our own insights and power. We project our potential qualities onto others instead of developing them ourselves. Committees, once they have been set up rarely call on the support or involvement of people. Unless we all get actively involved no real change can come about.

JUST ANOTHER CASE

The case of 19 year old Martin McGrady is but one example of how judges, lawyers and police can conspire to erode the few legal rights we do have in this part of the "free" world.

For anyone to face the monolithic legal machinery in this country, North or South is a mammoth task. Being arrested, held in custody, hassling to get the "services" of a half decent solicitor and barrister, appearing in court, entering a plea and then waiting the outcome of your case, which many times turns out to be a custodial sentence are coming to experience. This is especially true for youngsters without jobs and who just don't stand a chance against the forces of "Law and Order".

Should the courts, police and prisons be allowed to carry on their insidious practices without as much as a squeak from the general public? The obvious answer is NO!

On the 14th June 1979 young McGrady was held by, then beaten up and released by an official IRA punishment squad. On returning home McGrady learned that the RUC was looking to lift him in connection with a hold-up earlier in the same day. Consequently McGrady turned himself in and was delivered to Castlereagh interrogation centre. After almost a year of being held on remand his trial ended on the 15th May. The total evidence against McGrady is contained in the following extracts from the Belfast Telegraph: "The judge said he decided the case on the accused's verbal admissions during police interviews at Castlereagh when he was alleged to have said "I done the thing"

"Defence Counsel admitted McGrady was a juvenile and criminal nuisance and that he had a very anti-authoritarian disposition" The main police witness under cross examination said:

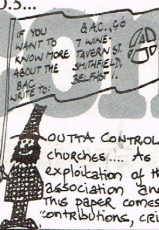
"There is no real evidence to say what his part was"

Although young McGrady pleaded not guilty and the evidence against him was less than circumstantial he was sent to prison for seven years. How shallow in principle and idealism are the three protagonists, the judge, defence counsel and police detective that between them they trampled justice and liberty into the ground

contd. p3

outta control

News & Views of the Belfast Anarchist Collective



OUTTA CONTROL... of the state, bosses, patriarchy, schooling, churches.... As Anarchists we oppose the authority and exploitation of this society, and advocate one of free association and self-management.
This paper comes out every 2-3 weeks and we welcome contributions, criticisms etc.

INSIDE ARMAGH PRISON

WHO GUARDS THE GUARDS?

Margaretta D'Arcy and Liz Lagrua have now spent one month on the 'dirt protest' in Armagh jail. They refused to pay fines after being arrested during a picket outside Armagh jail. They were sent to prison. By going to prison they will

*maintain the right to picket Armagh jail

*show solidarity with the thirty inside who are on a no-wash protest for political status

*help break the isolation and censorship surrounding this protest.

The following article is based on the first monthly visit of Margaretta, who incidentally is the only Southern Citizen in the North's jails;

The most striking aspect of Armagh Prison A-Wing (where 32 protestors are) is

the prisoner's vulnerability. They are surrounded by men - the male screws; the doctor, the six prisoners from Crumlin Road (who are replacing the usual two who do odd jobs) and of course Scott, the prison governor. The frightening aspect of this is the lack of control of the screws, Scott either turns a blind eye to, or encourages, the intimidation.

As for the N.I. Office and Westminster, they want the protest defeated, and give the prison governor sufficient freedom to achieve that. Margaretta D'Arcy, after her first week on the protest, went so far as to say she had the feeling that male screws could come into their cells, rape and then hang the women without being able to stop them.

Although only the women screws have keys they are often accompanied by the men on their wing duties, and constantly threaten violence using the men..

Continued on inside of next page

SOME RESPONSES

I read the two issues you sent us and was pleasantly surprised. There were some articles and commentaries I really liked. Your paper looks like it could be sold at any newsstand. I also have the feeling that you write for a very large public. R.F. for the Free Socialist (Amsterdam).

On a different line 'their' drug laws and education KILL drug users especially young or inexperienced drug users.

Because they treat dope, mushrooms, etc. as the same as smack and downers, and other chemical shit, people who don't know about drugs see no real difference between them. So some kid turns on to dope--great--next week he/she can't find any dope. but someone offers them some other junk. The kid says, 'Dope was nice and didn't do me any harm, therefore this stuff won't do me any harm'. As a result, all the recent deaths among Dublin teenagers from OD's, and a frighteningly high rate of smack addiction among young folk here.

Billy (Dublin).

What's the situation like now between anarchists and marxist-leninists? It's a pity the labels couldn't be set aside for a few years-- after all, the other side can come together when THEIR interests are threatened. I don't know much about anarchism, but it would be close enough to my way of thinking on giving power to every section of the community....self-reliance must be the answer. E.G. Portlaoise Jail.

I'm delighted to hear that so much literature is being turned out at the moment, but I haven't seen any of it, and am unlikely to.

N.Murray...Curragh Military Detention Centre, Curragh, Co. Kildare.

A possible and practical notion for solving the 'so-called' housing situation...destroy all the records in all the estate agents offices....overnight they end up not knowing who owns what. Then move into these empty houses en masse.

G.Fawkes (Belfast).

Excellent value at 5p...and, if as promised it appears at least monthly, it will be an important addition to the anarchist press. (Peace News, Nottingham).

Myself, I've been waiting years for a paper to suss out exactly the right length for itself. If more papers concentrated on making every page as interesting as yours, they'd not only save a lot of paper, but they might be something to look forward to.

D.C. (Rising Free, London).

CRASS

When I heard the single from CRASS and the POISON GIRLS, and read the sleeve notes, and laughed at the poster, and wore the badges, I thought...this is great...a real contribution towards a revolutionary anarchist culture.....full of force, energy, clarity, and regeneration.

The music approaches a new form with which to carry the anarchist content. It conjures up the notion of an explosive, dynamic, theatrical performance. The total effect of the music is shattering. The sleeve-notes aren't your usual bull-shit about the personalities in the group.

Instead, they explain the Persons Unknown case (about how the state tried unsuccessfully to put several anarchists behind bars) what anarchism is about, the address of your local anarchist group, and the lyrics of the songs.

Southern studios, poison girls, crass, and crass records have charged nothing for the production of the record. And Rough Trade are distributing it at cost, which means that apart from the cut that the record shops take, all the money goes towards the setting up of an anarchist centre in London. Single available from Good Vibes, Just Books or send to Rough Trade, 202 Kensington Park Road, London.....only 70p. Get one quick!



cont. from page one

Referring to the origins of the no-wash protest, Margaretta stated that the beatings by male screws on February 7th were deliberately set up. Scott and the screws knew a long time beforehand that there were uniforms in the cells, but used this as an excuse to draft the screws from Long Kesh, in full riot gear, to attack the women. The snooker cues in the common room had been previously removed to ensure the women's defencelessness.

The attack, and subsequent 3 day denial of washing and toilet facilities, provoked the women on to the no-wash protest, which must have been anticipated by the authorities. It is interesting to note that the screws at that time were claiming for more money, which was subsequently realised with the extra duties and worse "working conditions".

In a similar way, the screws know and accept that there are always some cigarettes (of the thin roll-your-own variety) in the cells. But every so often they use them as an excuse to raid the cells and beat the women.

When describing the present conditions (which are now on a par with the H-Blocks) Margaretta referred to them as trying to get used to a different world. Everyone's previous standards and values had to be discarded. Most of the women are pale and losing weight. Many of them are seriously ill, (especially Maria McClenaghan Dolores Price, and Pauline McLaughlin) The doctor is not so much malicious as incompetent. The previous doctor employed in Armagh, had been accused of medical malpractice with drugs, and the present one is alcoholic. Whether consciously malicious or not, the result in suffering is the same.

During the summer weather the conditions are exacerbated by the abundance of flies. The food usually bland, is shared with the flies which have just left the shit covered walls. Greenflies are found on the lettuce and a dead rat was recently seen lying outside a cell door.

The germs which these creatures carry are being passed on to the prisoners. Some

of the women have lost all taste and survive on bread and jam.

Although not as tangible there is an insidious effect on the personality. Apart from the conditions of protest which the women were forced on to-smell dirt, urine, shit, there is the continual intimidation, threatened and real, with insults, degradation, and the pushing and shoving.

This causes dehumanisation and a weakening of self-confidence. The women's personalities are being attacked, and they are being conditioned to accept a state of affairs which normally they wouldn't. It is only expected that people try to live with adverse conditions to maintain their sanity. These women, Margaretta said, should not have been forced to such an extreme in their demand for political status.

It is vital that pressure be brought to bear on the N.I. Office on who "guards the guards" Demands should be made to allow wing visits by relatives, trade unions, journalists, civil rights groups etc. A precedent has been set by the Belfast Telegraph reporter (Sandra Chapman, who wrote a full page of what must be the most deceitful and opportunistic journalism - second only to UTV's Gary Gillespie on Counterpoints coverage of the H-Block Blocks) T.P. Coogan, editor of the Irish Times got in two weeks ago (the food improved on that occasion). However he was not collecting information for his paper but for a book which caused Liz Lagrue, in one of her letters, to accuse him of making money out of suffering. So other groups, especially the N.U.J. should now put pressure on the N.I. Office. Why have not the Writers Union and the Irish Playwrits Association, to both of which Margaretta belongs, taken up their members case publicly? Has their ink dried up?

Birthday cards are usually allowed in, so readers should send cards to Margaret Nugent whose birthday is on 28th June, Shirley Devlin whose 3 years on the protest is on the same day and Margaretta D'Arcy won't mind a belated "Happy Returns" for June 14th last.

Fuck the Lyric

Theatre is 'the spectacle of the bourgeois or so you'd imagine judging by the theatrical offerings in Belfast. One hopeful sign has been what was known as the 'young Lyric', a group of young actors interested in developing their theatre not to ignore the reality around them. They performed the amazing 'Marat/Sade' in their Cromwell Rd. theatre. Unfortunately their director/dictator/father-figure-S. McCreedy intends putting the play on in the Lyric-the spectacle chamber! To date, two of the large cast have refused to bend, and won't be in on the performance.

Presumably neither will the original ending of the play, where all the inmates of the mental institution (where the play takes place) escape, run amok amongst the audience, only to be bludgeoned by the guards. The Lyric is NOT the place for a touch of realism! Radical theatre in Belfast must wait a while longer.

RIPP-OFF

Whether we like it or not, we all live in a class society. There are those who have, and those who have not...there are those who give the orders, and there's those who are expected to follow.

And there's property. A lot for the few, the rest for the many... but more and more, it becomes the play of our very existence. Own, buy, consume as compensation for the daily grind.

Everything is there we are told we need, IF we have the money to 'buy' it. So to rip-off the rich to fulfill our needs is one conscious reaction. Ripping-off those who CANNOT afford it is another reaction. It is an anti-social act, it is the instinct of the rich, a product of their culture, not ours!

A short while back, the 'prisoners box' (with about £20 in coins) was ripped-off from Just Books. Money collected goes towards the cost of sending books to any prisoner who can ask. Just Books are asking for donations of free second-hand books so that this can continue and grow.

JOINT PATROL

Following recent revelations in Outta Control and Liberation (Paris) about Haughey's drug-smuggling involvement, the Customs & Excise Service are also beginning to "spill the beans".

Mr McAodha, in a forthright speech, strongly attacked politicians for interfering in Customs work. He said: "The amount of day-to-day business of the Customs and Excise service is a cause of continuing worry and embarrassment to our members. It speaks volumes for their commitment to the rule of law when, apparently, senior men in Government make demands for favoured treatment for their friends and relatives, sometimes hiding their identity. It is unnecessary to elaborate on what this does for the morale of our members."

However this bunch of kill-joys are more concerned with improving their image and increasing their power, than with exposing the hypocrisy of the regime which puts people in prison for possession of drugs which they supply! Unfortunately, "drugs being imported into, and through this country literally by the ton" is not helping Belfast street prices currently at £80 an oz. for imported hash!



Support nurses' actions

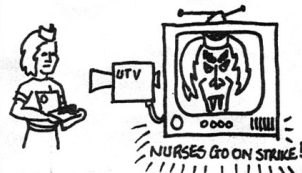
There are about 450,000 nurses and midwives throughout Britain and N.Ireland, represented by 4 unions. On Thursday May 29th the Thatcherite government told a delegation of nurses representatives that they would get "not a penny more" than a 14% pay increase.

For too long the governments and the National Health Hierarchy have used and abused nurses. They show a total disregard for those very caring people who decided to take up nursing. Long after the doctor has dealt with the patient, it is the nurses who provide the support and comfort necessary for recovery. How many miners, power workers, dockers, drivers etc., have received attention from nurses at various times in their working lives and yet gone on to forget all about it? If there was the solidarity in the labour movement which there is meant to be, then the various unions with industrial clout would have come out in support of the nurses claims long ago. Instead of solidarity there has been on many occasions a pursuit of selfish sectional interests which was partly responsible for the "Day of Inaction" on May 14th.

In the struggle against the Thatcherite government the nurses will need all the support they can muster to win their claim. In pursuit of their aims they will initiate strikes, go-slows etc., which in this present economic/political climate is totally justified. To put the nurses down the state will use polarised journalists, reporters and other media people in their service to inundate people with large amounts of anti/nurse/anti-women propaganda. In the forefront of this pro-government campaign we will find their reactionary tabloids, the Sun, Star, and the Mirror. Remember the appalling coverage they gave the power workers, ambulance drivers and hospital ancillary workers when they went on strike?

So more than ever they will need the support of the general public. Don't stand on the sidelines, give the nurses all the support and solidarity you can and help them make the hospitals and the health service something worth having even in this rotten society. Sitting doing nothing is cynical and pathetic. Doing something we learn lessons, raise consciousness and go forward.

Meeting Mehar... Peamed on a kid napping 3 The newly open Cico cafe in Gt. Market Street is a...
The least Congress of Trade Unions are having their...
Shel - Shock Rock - the locally made film...
Shel - Shock Rock - the locally made film...
Shel - Shock Rock - the locally made film...



DEMOCRACY CHANNELLED

So there we are; we've had our bit of media democracy for another 20 years. The Independent Broadcasting Company duly held its 'public' meeting to find out what sort of commercial television we would like made for us.

It was chaired by awfully nice Lady Plowden wheeled in direct from London. We touched our forelocks and felt deeply honoured. We gave out leaflets (and sold a few copies of magazines outlining what the IBA are really up to in their censorship of programmes about Ireland)

HAVE WE WON?

Since the recent change in the S.government personalities, there appears to be a noticeable change in their attitude towards nuclear power. It's only a few months since the former energy minister- 'O' Malley- gave his weekly, outpouring to the gullible press, saying how nuclear power was a necessity for our survival(!). Now, the new energy minister- Collier-says there's no rush...maybe it's a bit dear(and at £1 billion it's the most expensive piece of state investment ever!)....maybe industry won't grow as fast as we all knew it wouldn't anyway...maybe public opinion should be considered...etc.etc. Why the 'sudden' change in attitude between the old and the new Fianna Fail?

Clearly the activities of the anti-nuclear movement in every town and village have been vital...what govt. wants to fight an election on the issue of nuclear power? It IS a bit costly too, for the state to undertake ex-

dit costly too, for the state to undertake, even with the EEC grants and costs can but grow given the slow awakening of the trade union movements' opposition. But another reason for Colley's enlightenment which shouldn't be ignored is a slight thaw in the EEC determination to have a common, rigid, energy policy. The heat is off, for now at any rate as the EEC bureaucrats realise that

moving too fast towards central european policies could split up the big business alliance. Look at the hassles they're having with the so-called Common Agriculture Policy.... clearly this is NOT the time to enforce a common energy policy! (They probably couldn't anyhow, as the individual capitalist states wheel and deal to get the best terms possible from the oil producing countries.... look at the French gov. who are currently exchanging a nuclear reactor and a uranium enrichment plant with Mexico in return for oil....however the dream of a centralised energy grid is still at the back of the minds of the technical-fish bureaucrats.)

For now it all eases the pressure on F.F. whose economic policies are enjoying such short-term disaster. Nuclear power is still in their heads and must remain so given an economy based on multi-national companies. (And irrespective of all the current public relations exercises concerning alternative energy developments.) But the rush is off, the pressure has lessened; the govt. and the businessmen can now choose the time, and not merely follow an EEC directive!

One person after the meeting was over asked his friend who was on the IBA Board when the decision to award the franchise was to be taken. 'Yesterday' was the reply 'we will let UTV continue' Ah well!

NO. 11112 OF 1974 CONTAINS: All well.

Hats off to Seamus Heaney (& Co.) the Catholic poet king,
Privately acquired the public skill of leaching others experiences
and suffering,
Enough to make him credible, edible, digestable, saleable.
Peering in but confused, detached
The well balanced Northern Irish/British (delete where applicable)
poet.

le of the road
les,
us!"

The third Carnsore anti-nuclear festival is being planned for August 11-18, again on the 'proposed site' in Co. Wexford. This year, the aim is less passive consumption of stage(d) music, and more involvement of ALL who turn up. Everyone is in on the act. It'll be interesting to see how it goes: we could all learn a lot from each other.

Many people from all over Ireland are helping organise Carnsore...but for some reason some people want to strictly control the content of exhibitions and stalls people want to bring along. This means excluding stalls like those on contraception and H-bomb who turned up last time. We, as ANARCHISTS, will be there and will support friends and comrades from other groups, organisations, and individuals who want to come along and participate and propagandise their parallel struggles.

HAVE WE WON?

Since the recent change in the S.government personalities, there appears to be a noticeable change in their attitude towards nuclear power. It's only a few months since the former energy minister- 'O' Malley- gave his weekly, outpouring to the gullible press, saying how nuclear power was a necessity for our survival(!). Now, the new energy minister- Collier-says there's no rush...maybe it's a bit dear(and at £1 billion it's the most expensive piece of state investment ever!)....maybe industry won't grow as fast as we all knew it wouldn't anyway...maybe public opinion should be considered...etc.etc. Why the 'sudden' change in attitude between the old and the new Fianna Fail?

Clearly the activities of the anti-nuclear movement in every town and village have been vital...what govt. wants to fight an election on the issue of nuclear power? It IS a bit costly too, for the state to undertake ex-

dit costly too, for the state to undertake, even with the EEC grants and costs can but grow given the slow awakening of the trade union movements' opposition. But another reason for Colley's enlightenment which shouldn't be ignored is a slight thaw in the EEC determination to have a common, rigid, energy policy. The heat is off, for now at any rate as the EEC bureaucrats realise that

moving too fast towards central european policies could split up the big business alliance. Look at the hassles they're having with the so-called Common Agriculture Policy.... clearly this is NOT the time to enforce a common energy policy! (They probably couldn't anyhow, as the individual capitalist states wheel and deal to get the best terms possible from the oil producing countries.... look at the French gov. who are currently exchanging a nuclear reactor and a uranium enrichment plant with Mexico in return for oil....however the dream of a centralised energy grid is still at the back of the minds of the technical-fish bureaucrats.)

For now it all eases the pressure on F.F. whose economic policies are enjoying such short-term disaster. Nuclear power is still in their heads and must remain so given an economy based on multi-national companies. (And irrespective of all the current public relations exercises concerning alternative energy developments.) But the rush is off, the pressure has lessened; the govt. and the businessmen can now choose the time, and not merely follow an EEC directive!

The uranium exploration going on in Donegal has been well publicised, but something is going on in the 'North' as well. It's difficult to get information, but one thing is for sure...and that is the EEC promotion and financing of uranium projects. They recently announced their grant aiding up to 1981, and it includes grants for uranium exploration in Germany, Italy, Denmark, Scotland, and Ireland. Mining companies are given up to 70% of their exploration costs, under the Euratom Treaty and in return the EEC control any uranium found. These latest grants include a 70% grant to Ulster Base Metals, currently exploring the 'Newry and Mourne granites' of S.Down and Armagh, centred around Hilltown and Rathfriland.

THE MULTI-NATIONAL MENACE

But who are ULSTER BASE METALS? Their registered office is given as Omagh in Co. Tyrone, but UBM is just the northern wing of a group of unscrupulous Irish businessmen who have prospecting licence all over Ireland (62 in all). Their speciality is getting large EEC grants for uranium exploration, and then edging share-prices as high as they will go.

Ulster Base Metals is headed by Patrick Joseph Hughes, a Dublin shark who is President and Director of Northgate, a large multi-national mining company, registered in Canada. Hughes' empire of deals fiddles and corruption, includes a director chair in Anglo-United (partly owned by Northgate); Hughes and Anglo-United own Munster Base Metals whose uranium drilling rigs are, at present, operating amid the opposition of local people in Donegal. Northgate also own Irish Base Metals, and Hughes is also Chairman and Director here too. It was I.B.M. machinery which was sabotaged again last month in Donegal. It's no surprise that Hughes and the rest of the hoods (known as the 'Newry mafia' and includes such notables as Matt Gilroy, P.V. McParland, and Peter McAleer...the brother-in-law of D.O'Malley who used to be the minister responsible for the handing out of the prospecting licences in the South)...it's no surprise that they also own Ulster Base Metals.

SO WHAT ARE THEY UP TO? Just like Donegal, they get a huge grant from the EEC...they start off with air surveys to test the air for a slightly higher radiation content given off if there are deposits of uranium buried in the rocks. Then, water, soil, and rock tests, finally moving in with drilling rigs to sample the rocks and see if profits are to be had. No publicity, and a prospecting licence granted by an ever-willing government with no regard for the very real dangers to the land and to the people. They promise a few jobs but say nothing of the plunder, destruction, and worry they leave behind in their search for profits. Radiation is deadly; it causes cancer, and can lie dormant in your body for many years before its full effects come out...and long after the mining companies have left! It contaminates the land, water, and people!

The area being explored by UBM stretches from Castlewellan to Feeny, and from Katesbridge to Kilkeel. Opposition in Donegal started when people found out exactly what uranium exploration and mining means. It's the same battle in Co. Down!

Another multi-national---SABINA---has been exploring the 302 sq. mile granite block around Fintona (EEC again providing most of the finances). They recently reported 'disappointing results', but their word is not to be trusted.

And opposition to uranium exploration is also developing in Co. Carlow. A friend from there writes....

Maugh Ltd., a subsidiary of the French-government controlled Minatome mining company have been prospecting for uranium in the Carlow area since 1977. These operations are financed by huge EEC grants.

Apart from the normal environmental and health hazards connected with the uranium, the involvement of the French government is particularly worrying because they are one of the few nuclear weapons countries who have not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, banning the sale of nuclear weapons to other countries and have, in fact, helped both Israel and South Africa to reach nuclear weapons capability. Minatome, the parent company of Maugh, are involved in uranium mining in Namibia. This uranium is, in turn, imported illegally by the French government for use in its nuclear power and weapons programmes. Local people have only now become aware of Maugh's activities, and the last few months have seen a growing campaign opposing the explorations. Pickets, meetings, benefits, to spread the information about uranium to the local people, the local farmers.

The Carlow anti-uranium activity is very much in its infancy, and needs all the help it can get. Information, literature, advice, materials, and good wishes to... Carlow anti-uranium group c/o 14 Riverside, Carlow, Ireland.

A Letter?

Dear Outta Control,

I've passed the pickets outside the BBC a couple of times but I still couldn't blow my horn in support of strike to bring back the BBC NI orchestra. I don't feel that the NI orchestra or their music has any relevance to me. They gear their performances towards the middle-classes...and don't tell me that the working classes aren't interested..... They have never once went out of their way to create interest.

I don't wholesale support every strike just because it involves the 'worker'. I see those who decide to work in anti-people jobs as collaborators with the enemy... such as prison screws; people who work in the arms industry; or the security forces. I would give some sort of critical support to strikers who work at producing useless products, and try and create a situation where they could take control of their work-place and use the machines to produce beneficial goods.

*Yours Sincerely,
Ernst McNab.*

SABOTAGE CONTINUES

Donegal anti-uranium people are organising an information and fund-raising weekend...Fri/Sat 27-28th. of June, all at St. Brigid's Hall, Lettermacaward. A Friday evening gig; Saturday spent with Donegal people exchanging ideas and information with themselves, and with other anti-uranium people from all over Ireland...with another benefit gig. It promises to be a very useful weekend for those who go along.

Meanwhile the mining companies are having a few problems...as local and national opposition to uranium exploration continues and grows, the share-prices drop up and down on the stock-exchange. They weren't helped by yet another bit of successful sabotage a few weeks back, when one of the two drilling rigs operating was temporarily but well and truly put out of action. The other is at the top of a mountain...it took the mining company 8 weeks to haul it up there... to try and escape from the opposition. Uranium exploration---NO.

OPEN THE PRISONS!



On Saturday, 14th. June, a 2000-strong march, protesting about the conditions in H-Block and Armagh, was again prevented from entering the city centre. As was said on the platform, the only other time a march was allowed this 'privilege', was when the Trade Union Campaign Against Repression staged a spontaneous strike and march from West Belfast to Transport House after the death of Brian Maguire in Castlereagh RUC station. Will the next time be, when there is a death in Armagh or H-Block? In contrast, almost every other demonstration has been allowed in...the Orange Order, the Black-men, the Peace People etc.

By a massive show of RUC and British Army strength the marchers were stopped at College Sq. where after a short but vain effort to push their way through, everyone

at the front sat down clapping and chanting 'SS RUC'. The tense atmosphere and sit-down tactic was reminiscent of the civil rights days---the difference being the green armoury backing up the RUC.

After the ritual speeches, when people were making their way home, the inevitable brick and bottle sailed towards the forces of 'law 'n order'. And judging by the amount of glass on Divis St. that night the local kids had a go too. If you had passed by Divis the night before, you'd understand why all the milk-bottles had been collected. I've never seen so many troops in such a small side-street, and every single car on the main road, going up and down, was stopped and checked. I'm sure the kids didn't sleep a wink, with the excitement of getting their own back the next day.



The Independent Broadcasting Authority are holding a public meeting in Belfast to hear evidence from the public about what kind of commercial channel the North should have. The licence to broadcast is up for grabs. Do we really have much influence in the decision on the type of television we want? What has Ulster Television's performance been like for the last twenty years? If Ulster Television loses the franchise who is the next in line?



UTV — Useless TV

And how has Ulster Television fared over the last twenty years? Ulster Television has contributed little in the way of understanding the situation in Northern Ireland. It has went out of its way to mystify and ignore events. There are numerous instances of Ulster Television (aided and abetted by the IBA) of censorship, trivialisation, distortion and lies about what is happening in the North. This has been borne out in documents such as "The British Media in Ireland — Truth: the first casualty" published by the Campaign for Free Speech on Ireland, and "Media Misreports on Northern Ireland" by the Workers Research Bulletin.

Ulster Television have periodically opted from the rest of the network from broadcasting politically sensitive programmes. All right for the rest of Britain to watch but they have decided that it is not for the likes of us.

WE ALL KNOW BROADCASTING IS BIASED.....

Any resistance to the status quo is distorted all the time by the media—

**outta control
supplement**

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TELEVISION: WATCHING BIG BROTHER

strikers, anti-nuclear, women issues. any resistance to the repressive nature of the State, is usually branded as siding with the terrorist.— The reason, the excuse, broadcasters put forward for consistent mis-reporting and blatant bias is the "National Interest". Throughout television and radio, inside the heads of men like Brian Young, Chairman of IBA, the ideology of "National Interest" is imprinted on his brain.

The idea of the National Interest is that politicians, Bosses and workers should be above "sectional" interests. Workers would work, bosses would take the profit made for them by the workers and politicians would be neutral — no matter how many shares, directorships and consultancies to top firms they hold. It says the government has to operate for the good of everybody, so that workers who militantly demand more than their allotted share are acting selfishly, unlike the bosses who take what they want anyway.

In fact the National Interest is just a subtle way of maintaining things as they are. The "National Interest" is always, when it comes down to it, the bosses interest.....

.....currently its running at about 100% for bosses, 0% for everyone else!

Ulster Television's understanding of the economy is jobs, jobs, jobs. What Sir Such and Such says we need to boost employment. What nice American or German multi-national companies are kind enough to set up in local factories, what government grants are or are not being given to aid employment. Never a mention of who gains, who pockets, who owns, who controls, who decides what and where. Its not in the national interest to think about such things, so UTV don't!!

* In the eyes of the TV companies, it's never in the "national interest" for a strike to be successful. Because for a strike to bite, it actually has to hurt the bosses. So TV always reports a strike as though it is the workers who are to blame for it, and who are making life difficult for the "public". Instead of it being the bosses who are to blame, and the workers using the only weapon they have.

* It's in the "national interest" to support law and order. But who decides what is legal and what is not? The State. Who decides what is violence? Why does the television view of violence never include the State? How come the television can so clearly identify "terrorists" yet respect and favourably report the violence of transport planners, the violence of the armed forces, the violence of the housing authorities?

* It's in the "national interest" to fight inflation. But who's putting up prices and inflation?
.....and so on.....

HOW TELEVISION KEEPS US DIVIDED IN OTHER WAYS TOO

* It keeps people quiet and passive for, on average, three to four hours a day (that's more time than we go out, spend talking

with our family and friends, spend on hobbies or political or social action)

* It maintains a continuous stream of propaganda aimed at keeping things as they are and maintaining the values of a "consumer" society. Most television people drive E-types and have large, perfect middle class houses and families.

* It is used as a selective weapon against the working class — to break strikes or sit ins, to confuse and split workers at a critical moment.

* It creates "popular heroes" — takes working class people away from their roots, glamorises them and encourages them to sell out.

* It reinforces the isolation of families, each with its own TV, trapped within its own four walls, away from the support and friendship of a larger community.

THE IDEOLOGY OF BALANCE

Ulster Television say that they balance programmes. They are obliged to, either by Royal Charter or TV Act. THE WHOLE IDEA OF BALANCE IS NON-SENSE. It's a con, designed to distract people from the real issues. It makes no difference whether an SDLP MP is balanced by a Unionist MP. Neither of them represent working people anyway. And what is the point of balancing a discussion about police or army brutality once a year when the Professionals and the Sweeney are telling you every week what a great job the security forces are doing? Or the SAS can actually show you how to kill—live!

THE VERY IDEA of a "balanced discussion" makes it seem as though on every issue, there is an SDLP opinion and a Unionist opinion and the truth lies somewhere in the middle which is "what the TV thinks". It doesn't square with the fact that the interests of the State will always be in conflict with the people.

It make it seem as though every problem can be solved as long as there are enough of the right people on telly talking about it. Its never you or me, its always our elected representatives. It reinforces the myth of doing NOTHING ourselves.

ITS A RECIPE FOR INACTION

The out and out right wingers like Paisley and Co know television is a vital front for their reactionary fight but they don't like the ideologies of National Interest and Balance, it sounds too liberal for them, a bit too egalitarian. They don't realise that that is television's strength. It's television's cloak of respectable "neutrality" which makes it such a persuasive propagandist for the system they want to keep.

THEY use our money to invade our homes every night with their lies and their distortions.

LOCAL CULTURE IGNORED

Ulster plays or films are rarely made by Ulster Television to display the vast reservoir of local talent of writers and actors. They are forced to emigrate to

find work. One of the Director's of Ulster Television shortsightedness and stinginess with money they have failed to act upon the world wide interest of programmes on Ireland, its social problems and its culture. They tell us about the huge amounts of money needed to make this or that but they are more concerned about paying out the profits to their shareholders at the end of each year.

Independent fim makers in Ireland never get a look in and are forced to try and sell their films abroad.

Local script writers are completely discouraged when writing plays about the situation in Ireland. They know from experience the strict controls they would have to go through, the Ulster Television censors diluting any political content so that it becomes meaningless. Film directors within Ulster Television have a built in "self censorship".

Ulster Television has virtually given no coverage to young people or their culture except when it conforms to their ideas. Young pop groups from Ulster, although successful on the mainland were met with initial silence here and forced to emigrate to gain any recognition. Last ditch attempts like the pathetic Gloria Hunniford "Good Evening Ulster" do nothing to convince people they should keep Ulster Television.

So after twenty years of Ulster Television the licence "to print money" is supposed-ly up for bids.

WHO IS THE LOCAL OPPOSITION?

Despite the presence of such "front" personalities in Lord Dunleith consortium such as James Galway, Mary Peters, Frank Carson, Phil Coulter etc., what guarantee do ordinary people have that they will not get more of the same?

The main aim of the Northern Ireland Independent Television is to make a profit for their shareholders (not you or I) which depends on the advertising revenue. And in the end you can be sure they will not put on any programmes which might upset the companies who advertise - their basic concern is with ratings - BIG audiences make for BIG advertising revenues make for BIG profits. This means that sometimes there is a little more freedom in UTV for programme makers AS LONG AS THEY GET THE AUDIENCES - or, ironically because they get no audience. In addition, the pressure to get audiences makes for glossy slick rubbishy glib programmes which support the status quo.

And of course there is the IBA to make sure that they tow the line!

WHO AND WHAT ARE THE IBA

The Independent Broadcasting Authority is appointed by the Home Secretary. The IBA exists to make sure the companies it licences play the rules. The rules are laid down in the Television Act of 1954. They state among other things "3.1 (a) That nothing be included in the programmes which offend against good taste or decency or incite to crime or lead to disorder or to be offensive to public feeling or which contains any offensive reference to any living person."

Brave, sweeping words. But how is the public feeling judged to be offended? What facts are thought of as offensive reference to a living person? It is up to the IBA to decide.

Most decisions are taken by Authority officials, headed by Director General Brian Young (Eton and King's College Cambridge, ex head master of Charterhouse, author of a book called "Intelligent Reading"). They have clear, often unspoken guidelines. The TV companies know what is expected of them, so clashes don't occur very often. Sir Lew Grade withdrew a film on Michael Collins before the IBA had even commented. The "national interest" is protected, programmes maintain "proper balance in their subject matter" and society remains as unbalanced and privilege ridden as ever.



The Lady Plowden, DBE
Chairman

WHOSE REPRESENTATIVES

Blease was formally the Northern Ireland Officer of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) and has been a leading official in Northern Irish trade unions for more years than many trade unionists in the North of Ireland care to remember.

His governorship of trade unionists in Ireland has born predictable fruits. Unemployment at three or four times the "British average", wage rates at less than two thirds the British average, strike rates the lowest in the UK and Catholic unemployment two and a half times that of the Protestants.

No one could accuse Billy Blease of having the imagination, the ability or the power to be responsible for all this. But he had done little to change it or to fight against it. During his leadership trade unionism in Northern Ireland has avoided taking any political position on the national question of the activities of the British Army.

Such is the record of Billy Blease, with one omission. Blease is also director of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, and the only member of that body who lives in Northern Ireland. He is looked to on the IBA as the "Irish expert".



Lord Blease
of Cromac

Mr. Christopher
Bland

Another director is Tom Carbery, a former Lt Colonel in the Public Relations directorate of the British Army in India; there is Christopher Bland who is a former director in the Government's Northern Ireland Finance Corporation and a former officer in the British Army's Ulster Regiment, the Royal Inniskilling Dragoons and has an impressive Loyalist background.

There are the usual bunch of Lords and Ladies and the whole cabal is headed by Lady Plowden, former director of Trust Houses Forte whose union busting activities have become something of a legend in right wing circles.

SO WHAT DO WE WANT?

WOMEN IN MEDIA

Every day of their lives, women are bombarded with unreal and degrading images of women. In plays they are men's stooges; in advertising all consuming, perfect companions/wives/mothers or their bodies used as a sales gimmick; in news programmes they are ignored or treated with paternal amusement. Women are rarely shown as real, thinking, working people and then their hard won programmes are considered of 'minority interest', less important than farming. T.V. is run by middle class males to them women are just pawns in their power game.

The Women in Media group in Belfast try to communicate women's issue through using their own media, pamphlets, posters and video.

For the past two year, Just Books in the centre of Belfast, have been operating a co-operative bookstore. They sell books, magazines, pamphlets, which are not generally available through local bookshops. This literature is produced by groups who have no access to the public through the mass media because of their controversial or radical content.

COMMUNITY MEDIA

For the past few years Community Media in Belfast have been conducting experiments pioneering the use of video as a real communicating medium.

They provide the video equipment which anyone can use to make a TV programme. They attempt to demystify the process of making a programme by giving ordinary people the chance to do it for themselves. Community Media deeply mistrust high specialisation and see it as a divisive instrument of a society anxious to contain creative political energies within a safe framework of well-defined catagories and disciplines. They think that people's opinions, thoughts and feelings should find direct expression and not be restricted or remoulded by leaders.

Programmes made are of issues which directly effect the people making them, and can be used to stimulate and articulate the feeling of people within the community.

UTV were approached with a view to transmitting some of the programmes made by the communities. They just didn't want to know. They have never been willing to experiment in community television with communities making and broadcasting their own programmes. Such experiments like Channel 40 in Milton Keynes and Swindon Viewpoint and in other towns like Bristol, Sheffield, Wellingborough and Greenwich have been established for some time now.

What we should be working towards (not that this is likely to happen from public meetings with the IBA) is a decentralised network of groups each producing their own television, and a free exchange with each other of imagination, information and ideas. Ulster Television are considering having a studio in Derry, we should be aiming for television facilities not only in every town in the North but every community. The technology is now available to make this happen. The IBA, UTV, and all the other television networks are not interested in developing understanding - we want a more genuinely democratic form of locally originated television.